



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday, June 24th, 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
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron OH 44333
Ph: 330-666-7116/Fax: 330-666-8292
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: Mary Pilversack

Epistle Reader: David Zuder

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, Wafiga Zawahri Family, Regina Salloum, Karen Horattas, Mike Shuman Shawns, Kathy Velikoff, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aramouni, Ann Sayre, George Tebcherani Family and Donald Kenny

(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, Dick Simon, 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

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

Chaker Debs, Hannah Kakish, George Ostich, Nathme Al-Smeirat, Carl Massouh Sr., Habib Kakish, Norman Elias Sr. and George Elias

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the 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 THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR

O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, * and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

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

BUILDING FUND:

\$50	Larry & Nazwat Kakish Fisher in memory of Habib Kakish
\$100	Tom & Zaneta Reedy
\$100	Carl Massouh in memory of Carl Massouh Sr.

NEEDY FUND:

\$1000	Elie Tebcherani for the health of George Tebcherani Family
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CALENDAR

<i>June 20th - 24th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest Parish Life Conference in Sylvania, Ohio</i>
<i>Mon., June 25th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bible Study 6:30-8PM at Frank Chirakos' House</i>
<i>Fri., June 29th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Saints Peter & Paul, the Holy Apostles</i>

THE EPISTLE

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.
O God, hear my voice when I cry unto Thee..*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink neither wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this?"

For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, “Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, “Not so; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your kindred is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. And you, child, will be called the Prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.” And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his manifestation to Israel. **Amen**

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Frank Chirakos will be hosting weekly **Bible Study**

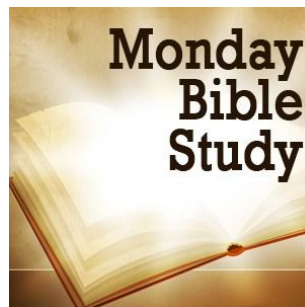
this summer, starting **Monday June 25th**.

When: Every **Monday** this summer, starting June 25th,

from **6:30 – 8PM**

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

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



The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

In the name of The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit ,One God Amen

Icon of the Nativity of St. John the Forerunner

Among the Church's feasts, there are three in honor of God's saint which in their significance stand out from the others devoted to the saints and are numbered among the great feasts of the Church of Christ. These feasts glorify the economy of God for our salvation.

These three feasts are the Nativity of St. John the Forerunner, his Beheading, and the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

The apparition of the holy Archangel Gabriel to the priest Zacharias in the Temple, with the announcement of the birth to him and the righteous Elizabeth, of a son who would prepare the way for the Lord, the Savior of the world, and the subsequent fulfillment of this promise, are the first of the events related by the Evangelists.

The announcement of the holy Archangel Gabriel to Zacharias in the Temple begins the New Testament Gospel. The announcement of the same Archangel Gabriel six months later in Nazareth to the Virgin Mary concerning the birth from Her of the Son of God, Who was to become incarnate, is a continuation of the revelation of the Pre-eternal Counsel concerning the salvation of the human race.

Three months after, the Annunciation, St. John the Forerunner was born "in a city of Judah," and six months after him Christ Himself was born in Bethlehem.

These events are closely bound together. "The glorious conception of the Forerunner proclaimeth beforehand the King Who is to be born of a Virgin" (Exapostilarion, Sept. 23, Feast of the Conception of John the Baptist).

The announcement of the Archangel Gabriel in the Temple, announced later to all living nearby by Zacharias, in the magnificent hymn, which he sang after the birth of the child, John and the restoration to him of the gift of speech (Luke 1:67-79), is the forerunner of the angelic hymn: "Glory to God in the highest;" which was sung in Bethlehem by the angels when they announced to the shepherds the Nativity of Christ.

The Nativity of John the Baptist is the first joy sent down by God to the human race, the beginning of its deliverance from the power of the devil, sin and eternal death.

It is true that even before the Forerunner, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was born, and angels announced Her birth to Her parents. However, at that time, only Her parents knew of the exalted lot that was prepared for the Virgin Who was born, and they themselves were not fully aware of what had been announced to them beforehand. Therefore, it was only they, who celebrated at the birth of their Daughter, while the rest of the world only later understood the joy that had been announced (to it), by this birth.

For this reason, the feasts of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos and Her Entrance into the Temple were established in the Church and began to be solemnly celebrated significantly later than the other great feasts, whereas the Nativity of John the Forerunner is one of the most ancient and most venerated of Christian feasts. Sermons on this feast have been preserved from the first centuries.

From the day of the Nativity of John the Forerunner, the preparation of the human race begins for meeting the Son of God on earth. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people . . . And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways (Luke 1:68, 76). These God-inspired words of the priest Zacharias, after he had regained the gift of speech, were made known in all the land of Judea, causing disturbance to all living there, who asked each other in astonishment: What manner of child shall this be? (Luke 1:66).

Involuntarily the thought arose: Is this not the Messiah Himself? Judea was in an especially tense state of expectation of the Savior. Thus, the child John prepared the way for the Lord by his very birth; and even while he was still in the womb of His mother, by his leaping (Luke 1:41) he announced the coming birth of the Child Jesus, as if crying out: "Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ comes from heaven, meet ye Him" (Irmos, Canticle One of the Canon, Feast of the Nativity of Christ).

"The herald of the Sun, the Forerunner" was John the Baptist, who was like the morning star that announces the rising of the Sun of Righteousness in the East. Just as the very event of the Nativity of John the Baptist was the antechamber of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so also the feast of the Nativity of John the Forerunner is also the antechamber of the feast of the Nativity of Christ. "The star of stars, the Forerunner, is born on earth today, from a barren womb, John the beloved of God, and manifests the dawning of Christ, the Orient from on high" (Glory at Lauds, of the Feast, June 24).

"The whole creation rejoiceth at thy divine nativity: for thou wast shown forth as an earthly angel, O Forerunner and a heavenly man, proclaiming to us, the God of heaven incarnate" (Canticle Five of the Canon). "O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, we who venerate thee with love, are in perplexity how worthily to praise thee; for the barrenness of her who bore thee and the dumbness of thy father are loosed by thy glorious and precious nativity, and the incarnation of the Son of God is preached to the world" (Troparion of the Feast). **Amen**

Hello,

My name is Annie Resetar, and I am a junior Nursing student at Walsh University. I am currently working on my Honors Thesis. I am researching on how culture impacts mother's method of feeding choice for their infants (breastfeed, bottle-feed, or both). While there has been extensive research on Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic cultural/ethnic groups on this subject, research gaps exist within smaller cultural communities such as the Middle Eastern community. Awareness gained from this study will allow nurses and other healthcare providers to provide better and more knowledgeable care in helping mothers choose a feeding method and supporting them in their decisions. I am inviting you to take part in my study.

Who:

I need mothers who are willing and open to sharing their stories and experiences on how the Middle Eastern culture influenced their feeding decisions. I need 10-15 mothers to be a part of this study so pass on the word! You are eligible if you meet the criteria below:

- given birth to a child in the past three years
- speak and understand English
- self-identify with the Middle Eastern culture
- are eighteen years of age or older



How:

- I will be conducting my research through 45 minute interviews. You may schedule a time that works best with your schedule. They will begin July 1st or upon IRB approval and will be conducted through September 5th.
- Every effort will be made to maintain your confidentiality; however, this cannot be guaranteed. Study records that identify you will be kept confidential. The interview notes, interview questions will not ask you to disclose your name or any other personal identification information.

Where:

- St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (3204 Ridgewood Road Akron, OH 44333)

Contact:

Zaina Zawahri (zzawahri@walsh.edu) with questions, more information, or would like to be a part of this study