



# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday June 3rd, 2018  
Sunday of All Saints

**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 Directors: Jan Kattouf  
Kh. Corinne Mahshie  
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: Tom & Rosemary McLaughlin

Epistle Reader: Jessica 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:**

- Dr. Lana Mallow (Nusbaum) Family in memory of Dr. John Jacob (1 year)
- George & Donna Maarouf and Raymond & Stephanie Maarouf Families in memory of Aaraf Georgious Maarouf (40 Days) Trisagion following Divine Liturgy
- Charlotte Shaheen in memory of Fred N. Shaheen (42 Years) and for the health of Jan Kattouf and Charlotte Shaheen and for the repose of the souls Sam & Mary Kattouf, Betty & Bob Khouri, Nicholas Afeefee, Miriam, Sadie & Carl Shaheen, and Deeb Turk
- 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, Romeo Jajju, Regina Salloum, Karen Horattas and Mike Shuman Shawns, Jackie Shama, Rick Karm, and Bentley Licitri

## **(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 Piversack, 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, Dusan Bogunovich, Tina Gmerek, John Bourjaily, Larry Ciavarella, Josephine Katzbach, Becky Burtoff, Brianne Dishong, Dr. Richard Esper, Neda Zawahri Serhan, Amanda Hagger, Pat Magette, Jordan Miller, Wilma Seely, 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, Sham & Ibrahim Albanna, Ghassan & Mona Ashkar

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

Chaker Debs, Hannah Kakish, George Ostich, Nathme Al-Smeirat, Joseph Rizk, Fred Shaheen, Norman Elias Sr. and George Elias

## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

## 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 ALL SAINTS IN TONE FOUR

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifteth her voice crying: Turn with Thy compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

## KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS IN TONE EIGHT

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, \* the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. \* Through their earnest entreaties, \* keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, \* through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

## JUNE DONATIONS

### NEEDY FAMILY FUND:

\$50	Charlotte Shaheen for the health of Jan Kattouf and Charlotte Shaheen and in memory of Fred N. Shaheen
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## CALENDAR

<i>Sun., June 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Sunday of All Saints</i></li><li>• <i>Godparents Day!</i></li><li>• <i>1 year Memorial Service for Dr. John Jacob</i></li><li>• <i>40 Day Memorial Service for Aaraf Georgios Maarouf (The Family would like to invite everyone for the Meal of Mercy that will be following Liturgy)</i></li></ul>
<i>Mon., June 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Apostles Fast begins until June 29<sup>th</sup></i></li></ul>
<i>Sun., June 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>All Saints of North America</i></li></ul>
<i>Tues., June 12<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Parish Council Meeting @ 7:30 PM</i></li></ul>
<i>Sun., June 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Father's Day!</i></li><li>• <i>Antiochian Village Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Session begins</i></li><li>• <i>40 Day Memorial Service for Norman Elias Sr.</i></li></ul>
<i>Mon., June 18<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>COCA picnic at Presentation of Our Lord @ 6:00PM</i></li></ul>
<i>June 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Diocese of Toledo &amp; the Midwest Parish Life Conference in Sylvania, Ohio</i></li></ul>
<i>Fr., June 29<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Saints Peter &amp; Paul, the Holy Apostles</i></li></ul>

## ***THE EPISTLE***

*God is wonderful among His saints.*

*Bless God in the congregations.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Hebrews: (11:33-12:2):**

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

## ***THE GOSPEL***

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew: (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30):**

The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”



# Sunday of All Saints

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



Today is the day in which we celebrate the Sunday of All Saints, we celebrate all those who have struggled and gone before us, who have heard the words of Christ, whose hearts and minds have been set aflame by the Holy Spirit, and who have proclaimed to the whole world through their very lives Christ's Resurrection. It is not a coincidence that these Sundays of All the Saints fall after the Sunday of Pentecost, after the Day of the Holy Spirit, and after the whole Lenten and Paschal church cycle, because it is on these days that the meaning of the Church in this world comes to fruition. These All Saints Sundays are the result of all that has gone before them in the history of salvation. The purpose of all the events in the life of Christ – from his Conception and Nativity to the Resurrection and His Ascension and in the pouring down of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – are to reconcile man's fallen nature with God and to make us Saints. This is the purpose of the Church – to make people holy and to lead us to salvation, and we are all called to be saints! We are all called to be holy. Be ye perfect as my father in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48).

When we look at the icons in our churches and in our in our homes, and we see all of the saints who have gone before us and who intercede before the throne of the Lord for us – it is important to know that in their lives here on earth, they were real people, people who had struggles just as we do. The only difference between ourselves and the Saints which you see in the icons is that Saints are people who continually pick themselves up after having fallen. They struggle and strive and continually repent for their sins in a spirit of humility and love for God until they attain holiness. Can we say, if we are honest, that we really share in their resolve? How often do we truly remember God? How often do we truly pray as we ought to? How often is it that we drag our feet in the spiritual life and prefer the empty delights and distractions of the world, rather than devote our heart to God alone? St. Seraphim of Sarov was once asked why there were no saints in our modern times like there were in the old days. He was asked if our modern life somehow prohibits us from attaining the spiritual heights that the men and women of old once did. St. Seraphim replied that it was absolutely possible for saints to be made in our day. The only thing we have lacking, he said, is our resolve to do so! We look to the saints both to emulate their life, and to pray to them to ask for their intercession.

As the saints are the perfect embodiment of a life lived in Christ, we look to emulate the saints in their virtues, in their bravery in the face of affliction and temptation, in their faith, their prayer, their Christ-like love and their self-sacrifice. The saints are a witness to the truth of the Resurrection. They are a living witness to the fact that, through Christ, sin is overcome. Through Christ, death is defeated. Through

Christ, we are freed from our bondage to our fallen nature, to the world, and to the devil. The saints show us what it is to be truly alive and just what it is to be a human being made in the image and likeness of God. St. Athanasius said: “The glory of God is the man fully alive” and the saints

are the only people who have ever lived on this earth who were truly and fully alive. We do not struggle in this world alone because the saints are our great allies in the spiritual battle. Not only do we turn to the saints as our example as Christians, but we turn to them to ask them to help us and to intercede for us at the throne of God. These saints of God who embrace the whole of Creation in their love, in their intercession, in their prayer, in their real, continuous presence. For when we look around the church today at all of the saints surrounding us in their relics and their icons, we must realize that these are not pictures of people who lived long ago or mementos of the past or abstract ideas.

These saints are here with us right now, at this very moment, in this very church, praying with us. Even here in our church USA, we have a relic to the great saint of God who abundantly blessed our continent, St. Raphael of Brooklyn. St. Raphael was the first Orthodox bishop consecrated on American soil, and though he was not a wonderworker or a performer of outward miracles in his life, he labored tirelessly for the building up of the Church in America and for spreading the light of Christ into the new world. He founded 33 parishes in North America, including our church St. George.

He baptized, married and catechized countless people – most assuredly in the thousands. He was a firm and outspoken defender of the truths of the Orthodox faith, and he was consumed with zeal for the Church of God, ever glorifying the Name of the Lord in his words and in his actions. He is a light and a great example for us, for it was by his great love, his enduring sacrifice, his sheer determination and tireless dedication that he made great strides in bringing his flock to Christ and building up the Orthodox Church in America. St. Raphael comforted his people in sorrow and also shared their joys – he sacrificed his life so that others might live unto God. He was truly, as St. Paul said, “all things to all people” and of all the saints of North America, known and unknown, we must, like them, be a light of faith to those around us, bringing hope, love and the light of Christ to a world which has largely forgotten God, and for this reason seems to grow darker, colder, and sicker every day. And let us also pray to St. Raphael and all the saints who shone forth in this land, and in every place, so that they may help us to have the strength and the courage to be such a witness. Let us pray to all the great saints of North America who have preserved the faith, and have shown forth the light of Christ in our land: St. Herman and Innocent of Alaska, and many others – many of whose names God may only know.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today in the Gospel we hear Christ’s clear commission to us: Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33) St. Paul speaks of all of the saints who had given up everything to follow Christ – their health, their homes, their families, and even their very lives, wandering through deserts and mountains, enduring trials, mocking, scourging, imprisonment and all manner of hardships for Christ. Yet through their weaknesses, they became strong in the Lord. They worked righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched fires, escaped the edge of

the sword and became valiant in battle, turning to fight, on our behalf, the armies of the devil.

Let us emulate the saints of God, and with firm conviction of their love for us, let us never fail to call upon Christ's Saints who shone forth in this land and in every land, and to ask them to help us in our spiritual battle. With courage and hope in the Lord, let us hear St. Paul's great battle cry as he says: Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnare us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrew 12:1,2). Let us today make a good beginning to seek first the Kingdom of God, and with all our heart say: All ye saints of North America and of every land, pray to God for us!  
**Amen.** **Fr. John**

## Congratulations!!!

To Mike Pancoe Jr. & Family

(wife Natalie, son Elijah and daughter-to-be Katrina) who was ordained as Subdeacon by Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Michael Jr. is the son of Michael Sr. & Diane Pancoe and grandson to Gerry and the late George Ostich.

**Axious. He Is Worthy.**



**Congratulations!!** On the marriage of **Michael & Sarah (Kormushoff) Brennan.** Michael and Sarah were married Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sarah is the daughter of Michael Jr. & Patrice Kormushoff. Michael is the son of Deborah Downs and grandson of Nancy Brennan.  
**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS**



All donations made in memory of Norman Elias Sr. have been collected and recorded. The family has requested that all donations be kept private. The family will personally address each donation.

Thank you for understanding. God Bless. May His Memory Be Eternal.

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 1<sup>st</sup> or upon IRB approval and will be conducted through September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 \(zzawahri@walsh.edu\)](mailto:zzawahri@walsh.edu) with questions, more information, or would like to be a part of this study.**