



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, June 23rd, 2019

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

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

mail@stgeorgeakron.com

Rev. Protodeacon Joseph Harb

Rev. Deacon James Reale

Sub-deacons: Sam Snyder & Samer Zawahri

Church School Director: Julia Shaheen,

Kh. Corinne Mahshie & Jan Kattouf

Parish News Coordinator:

Kh. Rania Alassaf (330)-907-9151

Choir Director: Kim Shama Hanna

Youth Director: Dr. Bill Shaheen

Web Master: Melissa Aramouni

Arabic Chanter: Tanios Tabanji

TLC Catering: Joe Catalano

(330)-607-4360 or joe@tlccateringinc.com

Greeters: Walid & Victoria Qaqish

Epistle Reader: Suzie Hanna

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:

- Awwad & Jacqleen Khourieh in memory of Janan Khourieh Kiriako (40 day).
Trisagion will be following the Divine Liturgy.
- Patrick & Sherry Vitone in memory of Anna Vitone
- Elie Tebcherani for the health of George Tebcherani family & in memory of Marie Tebcherani.
- Bob & Flo Howell for the health of Charles & Kristin Dowd, Karol Haddad, Dave, Karla, David & Taylor Welling, Mike, Karen, Christopher & Emily Wright, Michael, Mia, Ava & Max Wright, Chris, Vicki, Christopher, Ann, Alfred & Angus Frankenhoff.
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Bonnie Dallas, Jim & Suzie Hanna, Lamia Harb, James Hicks, James Workman, Olga Yogmur, Edmund & Geri Farris, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, Tom Mclaughlin, Karen Dodovich, Hoda & Gina Jabbour, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Wendy Simon, Dany Nader, Christian Simon, Dawn Shaheen & Sophia Massouh.

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

Fr. George Shalhoub, Sandy Abookire, Margaux Yerian, John Dodovich Family, Hala Zawahri, Wafigah Zawahri family, Paul Megois, John & Joyce Simon, George Tebcherani, Connie Kenney, Joseph Kelley, Michael Peludat, Carl Massouh, Wafigah Zawahri, David Welling, Micheline Debs, Rose Farah, Elie Eid, Deacon Joe Harb Family, Freda Corbin, Mary Smolinski, George & Georgette Zabaneh Family, Keith Yerian, Richard Morrow, Marsha Lindsay, Tony Jaber, Celia Kulmala, Sophia Britton, Kristen Sage, Daisy Salem, Jihan & Hamodeh Albanna, Madeleine Khoueiry, Kelsey Thompson, Bob & Flo Howell, Susan Bogunovich, John Bourjaily, Mildred Halamay, Norma Kakish, Botros Kerro, Elie Sherfan, John Mashni, Helen Zimmerman, Sadie Kannam, Marie Saidy, Carl Moore, Habouba Rahbani, Greg Kattouf, Wagdi Anton, Antoine Aramouni, Gerald Hanna, Jackie Wilson, Vincent Alexander, Antoinette Jabbour, Isaac & Gamalat Gaid, Ghassan Ashkar, Jackie Shama, Larry Kobbs, Dr. Richard Esper, Jordan Miller, Bentley Licitiri, Kathy Velikoff, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aramouni, Patty Sue Jones, Inyas Markarian, Violet Carey, Patricia Hanna, Alexandra Eid, Afaf Halasa, Sandy Mahshie, Bryan Caley, Suzette Saadeh, Rosemary McLaughlin, Sub-Deacon David Tomey, Joe Gabel, Robert Denious, Regina Salloum, Karen Horattas, Mary Lou Simon, Lurice Halasa & David Pilversack.

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

Nick Shaheen, Eleanor Alexander, Raymond Matthews, George Zagaib, Sr. & Joseph Haddad.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 8)

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 (TONE 4)

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.

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.

KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS (TONE 8)

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in off'ring 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.

DONATIONS:

NEEDY FAMILY FUND:

\$500	Elie Tebcherani for the health of George Tebcherani family & in memory of Marie Tebcherani.
\$100	Anonymous for the health of Salloum families & in memory of Raymond Matthews.
\$50	Sam & Ashley Myers.
\$25	Vincent Alexander for the health of Jay Wallace.
\$25	Bob & Flo Howell.
\$25	Anonymous for the health of Kh. Corinne Mahshie family.

BUILDING FUND:

\$200	Thomas & Zaneta Reedy.
\$50	Bonnie & Bill Dallas in memory of Jeannie Sleeper.

THE EPISTLE

God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations

The Reading from the Epistle of St. 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. (**Amen**)

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of All Saints)

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.” (**Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee**)

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 icon corners 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, and 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, mockings, scourgings, 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**

CALENDAR

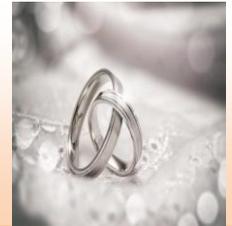
TODAY Sun., June 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday of All Saints • 40 day Memorial Service for Janan Khourieh Kiriako
Mon., June 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Read p. 8)
Wed., June 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM @ Our Church
Fri., June 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campers will be back from Antiochian Village
Sat., June 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, The Holy Apostles
Sun., June 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of All Saints of North Americ
Wed., July 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM @ Our Church
Thurs., July 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDEPENDENCE DAY
Sun., July 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiochian Orthodox Women Society meeting after Divine Liturgy
Tues., July 9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM
Sun., July 14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball/ Volleyball @ the Family Centre following Divine Liturgy

Monthly Drawing was held on June 16th, the winners are:

#29	Zahi & Amanda Kakish	\$200	#101	Kh. Corinne Mahshie	\$50
#137	Gerry Ostich	\$100	#36	Garner Mitola	\$50

CONGRATULATIONS TO Sam & Ashley Myers on the occasion of their marriage that took place Sunday, June 16th. Ashley is the daughter of Atty. Eugene & Terry Elias and sister of Nicholas. Sam is the son of Dr. Steven Myers & Linda Matheny.

May God grant them many years!



CONGRATULATIONS! The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Marita Karo, daughter of Boutros & Mariam Karo and sister of Mathyo & Marinos that took place Sunday, June 16th.

May God grant her many years!





June 24th – Feast of the Nativity of St. John, The Forerunner, Prophet and Baptizer of Christ

St. John was the son of the Prophet Zacharias and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of the Virgin Mary. St. John is known as the "Forerunner" and "Baptist." He is known as the Forerunner because he preceded Christ and taught repentance, which prepared men for Jesus' teaching and His ministry. He even recognized Christ as the Messiah as early as when they

were both still in their mothers' wombs. According to Holy Tradition, the Virgin Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and when they embraced John leapt in his mother's womb, which is considered his first acknowledgment of Christ as Messiah. After his birth, St. John's father Zacharias was murdered in the temple. He and his mother fled to the desert and he was raised there. Thus he lived as an ascetic from the earliest part of his life. He ate plants and roots and wore rough clothing. When he grew, he baptized people in the Jordan, teaching repentance, but also saying that someone greater would come after him and baptize with the Holy Spirit. St. John always spoke the Truth and because Herod did not appreciate his criticism, he was imprisoned. Later he was beheaded, as the result of a promise Herod gave to his step-daughter to give her anything she asked. The daughter was convinced by her mother to ask for John's head on a platter. Our parish celebrates the feast of St. John's Beheading as our patronal feast day. It is a strict fast day in recognition of the way in which he died, but it is also a joyous feast day because John's life was such a luminous example for monastics, martyrs and all Christians to follow him.

A Prayer to Saint John the Baptist

O Baptist of Christ, Holy Forerunner, last of the prophets, first of the martyrs, instructor of fasters and desert-dwellers, teacher of purity and close friend of Christ! I pray thee; I run to thee. Do not reject me from thy protection, but lift me up who am fallen in many sins; renew my soul by repentance, as by a second Baptism. Purify me, corrupted by sins, and compel me to enter therein where no corruption can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Update on St. George Photo Album Directory to be published later this year:

Monday, June 24th, at 1 PM at the church. Organizational meeting. All welcome. The leaders of the Parish Council, Antiochian Ladies, and Youth are asked to please ensure that at least one or two members will attend. For the Sundays of July 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, we will need volunteers at the church to sign up members for photo shoot appointments.

For the following photo shoots we will need volunteers to help with the arrangements:

Wednesday, August 7th, 12 to 8:30 PM, Thursday, August 8th, 2 to 8:30 PM, Friday, August 9th, 2 to 8:30 PM, Saturday, August 10th, 10 to 4:30 PM.

For questions contact Sam Salem. 330-864-3745 – samsalem@neo.rr.com