

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, July 7th, 2019
Third Sunday of Matthew



**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
yohana-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

Greeter: Helen Gisewhite
Epistle Reader: Danielle Elias Mitola

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:

- Cindi Shama in memory of Charlie Sturm (6 years).
- Dave & Mary Pilversack family in memory of Jason Davis.
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Dcn Jay Wallace, Bonnie Dallas, Jim & Suzie Hanna, Marlene Elzeer, Olga Yogmur, Edmund & Geri Farris, Tom McLaughlin, Karen Dodovich, Hoda & Gina Jabbour, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Wendy Simon, 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, James Workman, James Hicks, 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, 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, Romeo Jajju, 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, Lamia Harb, Frank & Gladys Chirakos.

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

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

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, 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 FOR ST. KYRIAKI (TONE 5)

Thou didst prove an auspicious and pleasing sacrifice, a holy offering, O valiant prizewinner Kyriaki, when thou broughtest thy Creator thine own spotless soul; which Christ in turn hath glorified, for through thee, He poureth forth divine gifts and endless graces upon the faithful who praise thee, since He is the Friend of man.

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 (TONE 2)

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.

DONATIONS:

NEEDY FAMILY FUND:

\$200	James & Mary Sneed
\$200	Atty. Eugene & Terry Elias

BUILDING FUND:

\$550	John & Joyce Simon family for the health of their family & for the health of Mary Lou Simon & family, George & Marlene Elzeer & family, and in memory of Ron Simon.
\$100	Zahi & Amanda Kakish for the health of their families.

CHOIR FUND:

\$100	Cindi Shama
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THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Amen)

THE GOSPEL

(For Third Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee)

CALENDAR

TODAY Sun., July 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third Sunday of Matthew• Antiochian Orthodox Women Society meeting after Divine Liturgy
Tues., July 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM
Wed., July 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:30pm-8pm @ our church
Sun., July 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball/ Volleyball following Divine Liturgy. (Outside if weather permits)
Sat., July 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feast of Prophet Elias
July 21 st – July 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2019 Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention

UPDATE ON St. George Family Photo Album Directory: Be sure to sign up for your family photo appointment before and after Liturgy Sunday July 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. We also need volunteers to help with the photo sessions scheduled for: Wednesday, August 7th, 12 to 8:30 PM; Thursday, August 8th, 2 to 8:30 PM; Friday, August 9th, 2 to 8:30 PM; and Saturday, August 10th, 10 to 4:30 PM. Please contact Sam Salem, 330-864-3745 Land) – 330-524-7037 (cell) – samsalem@neo.rr.com. Thank you.

Congratulations on the Churching of Cameron Scott. He is the son of Scott & Laura Boyert. Proud grandmother is Pam Boyert and grandparents are Norman & Diane Elias and great grandparents are Alice Elias & the late Norman Elias, Sr.

May God Grant Him Many Years



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 24th - Sunday, October 27th

THE FALL GATHERING of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest will be hosted at Our Church, St. George Akron.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Today in our Gospel as we heard our Lord Jesus Christ said, *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy (good), your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy (bad), your whole body will be full of darkness.*

We See as We Are? that appears in his book ?Gems from the Sunday Gospels, volume One.? In it he states, ?The eye is the window of the whole body. Eye here means the soul of a person. And we tend to see and hear things not as they are, but as we are. He who is filled with hate sees only hateful people. If we feel insecure inside, other people seem to threaten us. We are constantly judging others by ourselves. The thief is far more suspicious of others than is the honest man.?

He tells a story of an ancient king who chose a good man and a bad man from among the people. The good man he said, ?Go out into my kingdom and find an evil man.? The good man searched and searched, but he could find no evil man. To the bad man the king said, ?Go out into the kingdom and find a good man.? The bad man also searched and searched, but he could find no good man. We see as we are.

We see that which we have prepared ourselves to see. Why was it that only the Magi Wise Men saw the star? Because, they were the only ones looking for the Savior. Why was it that only Symeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the Savior of the world when Mary and Joseph brought the child into the crowded Temple on the fortieth day after His birth? Because only they were expectantly looking for Him.?

In the Great Vespers service right before the Entrance and singing of ?O Joyful Light?, the priest's prayer reads in part? For unto You, O Lord, Lord, our eyes and in You have we hoped.? In the Divine Liturgy right before the Gospel, the priest prays, ?Shine within our hearts, O Lord, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind and heart to comprehend the message of Your gospel teaching.? As our physical eyes read the scriptures and gaze upon the sacred icons, our hearts and minds must be constantly looking towards the Lord.

Listen to Jesus? other teachings about the eyes.

(And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"?; and look, a plank in your own eye! Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.) (Matthew 7:1-8)

(And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire). (Mt.18:9)

(So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?? 20And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23All these evil things come from within and defile a man.)" (Mark 7:18-23)

The story about the famous preacher Henry Ward Beecher. As he greeted people when they exited the church after the worship service. One person said, "Dr. Beecher, you may be interested to know that I counted a dozen grammatical errors in your sermon this morning?" Another worshipper greeted him saying, "Today, I found God?" Both people had listened to the same sermon. Both had found what they were prepared to find. We see as we are.

He continues by saying that what is inside is all-important. If we do not have God on the inside, we shall never see Him on the outside. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God?" (Mt.5:8) Pointing at a neighbor's wash in the backyard, a lady said, "Just look at those clothes on the line. They are so grey and streaked." A friend replied to her, "It looks to me as if the clothes are very clean. It is your windows that are dirty."

If life looks cloudy, maybe it's our windows that need cleaning. Jesus is always calling on us to keep the windows of the soul clean through daily self-examination, repentance and confession. If we do not, we shall constantly see others, not as they are but as we are. George Bernard Shaw said, "Better keep yourself clean and bright. You are the window through which you must see the world?" **Amen.** **Fr.John**



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