



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday, July 21st, 2019
Fifth 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
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: Gloria & Alex Harb
Epistle Reader: Rima Elsoury

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:

- Mike & Dawn Eid family.
- Patrick & Sherry Vitone family.
- Jihan Albanna Family in memory of Sanah Albanna & Iskandar Aldekem (2 years).
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

The Alice Elias Families, Jackie Shama, Wafigah Zawahri family, Habouba Rahbani, Bonnie Dallas, Marlene Elzeer, Olga Yogmur, John & Joyce Simon, Jim & Suzie Hanna, Judy Parianos, Edmund & Geri Farris, Tom McLaughlin, Karen Dodovich, Hoda & Gina Jabbour, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Christian Simon, Dawn Shaheen, Sophia Massouh, Bushra Mansou, Terry Anderson & Dcn Jay Wallace.

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

Fr. George Shalhoub, James Hicks, Sandy Abookire, Margaux Yerian, John Dodovich Family, Hala Zawahri, Paul Megois, 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 Saily, Carl Moore, Greg Kattouf, Wagdi Anton, Antoine Aramouni, Gerald Hanna, Jackie Wilson, Vincent Alexander, Antoinette Jabbour, Isaac & Gamalat Gaid, Ghassan Ashkar, 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, 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, Sanah Albanna & Iskandar Aldekem.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world 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 PROPHET ELIAS (TONE 4)

The incarnate Angel, and the Prophets' summit and boast, * the second forerunner of the coming of Christ our God, Elias, the glorious, * from above sent down his grace upon Elisseus; * he doth cast out sickness and doth also cleanse lepers; * and unto all that honor him, he poureth forth streams of cures.

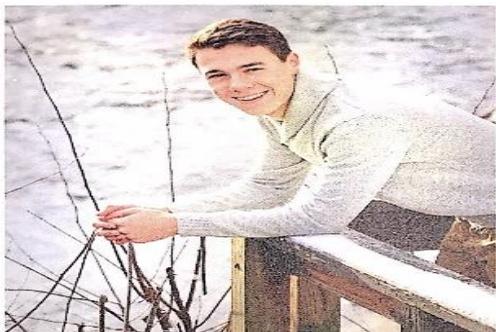
TROPARION – HYMN OF ST. GEORGE

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.

ALL ARE INVITED! On 08/03/2019 from 2 to 6 pm



CLASS OF 2019
**GRAD
PARTY**

join us for a celebration in honor of
LUKE SHAHEEN

2189 Sourek Trail, Akron, Ohio 44313
RSVP to Jessica at 330-858-9077

THE EPISTLE

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. **(Amen)**

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city. **(Glory to thee O God. Glory to thee)**

CALENDAR

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| TODAY: Sun., July 21st | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention from July 21st until July 28th. |
| Wed., July 24th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:30-8:00 PM @ Our Church. |
| Snn., July 28th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday of Apostles of the 70 Saint Irene Chrysovalantou |
| Aug. 1st – Aug. 15th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dormition Fast Begins from Aug.1st until Aug.15th • Paraclesis Prayer 7:00 PM. Everyday except Saturday & Sunday. |
| Mon., August 5th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord 7:00 PM |
| Tues., August 6th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| Tues., August 13th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM |
| Wed., August 14th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos 7:00 PM |
| Wed., August 15th | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos |

UPDATE ON the St. George Family Photo Album Directory: Sam Salem, Geri Farris, & Sherri Farris will be on hand this Sunday, July 21st and July 28th, before and after Liturgy to take your family appointments to be photographed for the Directory. Please make every effort to set up an appointment. We want to make sure no family is left out. The photo sessions are 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. For questions, please contact Sam Salem, 330-864-3745 (Land), 330-524-7037 (cell) or samsalem@neo.rr.com. Thank you.

Sam, Geri, & Sherri



Our Lady of the Cedars Church
507 South Cleveland-Massillon Road
Fairlawn, OH 44333

31st Annual Lebanese Festival

DATES:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AUGUST 2nd & 3rd

The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elias

Prophet Elias – the God-seer, miracle-worker and zealot for faith in God – was born of the tribe of Aaron in the town of Tishba, for which he was called Tishbite. When Elias was born, his father Sabbas saw angels of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and feeding him flames.

That was a foreshadowing of Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in divine contemplation and prayer, withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and pray in tranquility. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes – the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with their capital in Jerusalem; and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes, with their capital in Samaria.

The former was governed by the descendants of Solomon, and the latter was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elias had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel for they worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One Living God. In addition Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and appointed many priests to the service of this false god.

Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God. He closed up the heavens, so that there was no rain for three years and six months; he called fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice to God, which the pagan priests were unable to do for the false god, Baal; he brought rain by his prayer; he miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow at Zarephath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs would lick up his blood, and to Jezebel that the dogs would consume her flesh – all of which came to pass; and he performed many other miracles, and prophesied other events as well.

He spoke with God, and heard the voice of God in the calm after the wind, earthquake and fire on Mount Horeb. Before his death, he designated Elisha as his successor in the prophetic calling; and, with his mantle, he divided the waters of the Jordan. Finally, he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. On Mount Tabor he appeared together with Moses beside our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the world, Prophet Elias will appear again, to put an end to the power of Antichrist.

SERMON ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-



In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit -Amen

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.... In today's Gospel we see the power of God and how, by one word, He can cast out demons. We see the weakness of the demons and how fearful they are of our Savior. Also, there is another lesson here - a necessary lesson in free will. God created us so that we would know

Him, but He does not force us to follow him. Some choose to follow him, and some choose to ask Him to leave, as we heard in our Gospel today. We do not know why these men are possessed by demons. We only know the result. We see their anger with God and their fellow men in the words of the Gospel which says, "coming out from the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way." Saint Nikolai observes that "Men work unrighteousness against God and so they are angry with God." All too often people will sin against God or their fellow man and blame God for the results of their actions. In the most severe case they do not even see the results of their own actions. The demons, or fallen angels, were angels that rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven; and, they have utter contempt for man.

They wish to destroy the crown of God's creation, man, because we are created in God's image and likeness. This is because the demons were once close to God before their fall. The demons want to bring man down so that he may suffer in the same manner as they. The demons are out to destroy every man. Saint Paul refers to this struggle with the demons as "a thorn in the flesh." (II Corinthians 12:7) Of course, in this Gospel, the demons were using a man's voice. They were terrified, because they see the God-man, standing before them, when they said, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" In this response to Jesus we see two things: The first is that we cannot live a life with God and with evil; the second is that the demons already know the results of their rebellion against God. They know the torment that awaits them. **STILL, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE.**

This same end that awaits the demons will come to the man who is an unrepentant sinner. Our Lord

Christ as He really is: He is the Son of God and that is very clear to them. St. James said, "You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe there is one God. Good! **EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE THAT** - and they shudder!" The devil knows there's only one

God; but the problem is, he does not worship Him. According to one Father of the Church, St. Simeon, the devils lack only one thing: Love. Indeed, according to him, 'theology without love is the theology of the demons. By the same token, faith without love is the faith of demons.

This is why we say in Church, "love one another" before we recite the creed and say, "I believe in one God." Therefore, we learn that Love is the abiding characteristic of God. When the people in the city saw the power of God and their swine dead, they were afraid! It is not the fear of God that brings forth wisdom, but rather, the fear of a man who does wrong and does not want to change from sin to goodness. God had not destroyed the people of the city.

He had only destroyed those which were CAUSING their own destruction! They should have glorified God and given him thanks. But, they did not look on the grace and the power of God. Instead, they wanted Him to get out. They wanted Him to LEAVE THEM ALONE. Tragic!

Absolutely tragic! They had the God-man among them and He showed them their sins; still, they wanted nothing of Him. They did not want Him around because evil hates the light.

So my dear brothers and sisters in Christ... be aware of the demons that wish to drag us down with them into the hell which they created for themselves; and know that God is there to save us from that hell because we, men, are the crown of His creation, created in His image and likeness. Amen.

Fr, John Alassaf

SAVE THE DATE

St. George Akron will be holding our Annual Food Fair this year on

Sunday, September 8th from 12:00pm-7:00pm.

For questions, please contact Kh. Rania @ 330-907-9151

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.

Details will be announced soon.