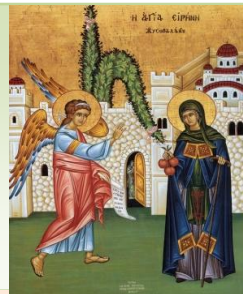




St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, July 28th, 2019
Sixth 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: Shawn & Mary Barnhart
Epistle Reader: Renee Reale

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:

- Micheline Debs family in memory of Chaker Debs (2 years).
- George Smahah family in memory of Eli Smahah.
- Dave & Mary Pilversack for the health of their niece Abby on the occasion of her 18th birthday.
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Jackie Shama, Wafigah Zawahri family, Habouba Rahbani, Bonnie Dallas, Marlene Simon Elzeer, John & Joyce Simon, Olga Yogmur, 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 Saidy, 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 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

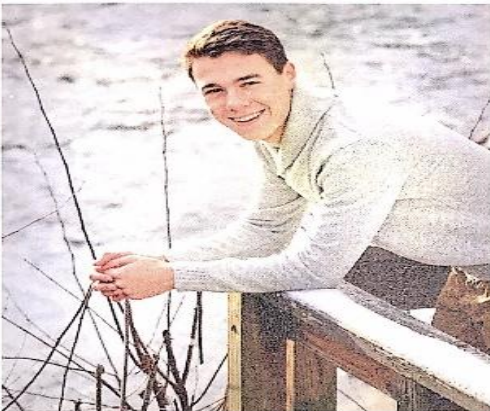
TROPARION – HYMN OF ST. GEORGE

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 THE TRANSFIGURATION (TONE 7)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

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



CLASS OF 2019
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LUKE SHAHEEN

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THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **(Amen)**

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sixth Sunday of Matthew)

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

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men. **(Glory to thee O God. Glory to thee)**

CALENDAR

TODAY Sun., July 28 th	• Six Sunday of Mathew (Sunday of Apostles of the 70 Saint Irene Chrysovalantou).
Thurs., Aug. 1 st – Thurs., Aug. 15 th	• Dormition Fast, Paraclesis Prayer 7:00 PM. Everyday except Saturday & Sunday.
Sun., August 4 th	• Antiochian Orthodox Women Society meeting after Divine Liturgy.
Mon., August 5 th	• Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord 7:00 PM.
Tues., August 6 th	• Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.
Wed., August 7 th	• Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:00-7:30 PM @ Our Church.
Tues., August 13 th	• Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM.
Wed., August 14 th	• Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos 7:00 PM.
Wed., August 15 th	• Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

DONATIONS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND:

\$100	Malek & Fadia Albanna
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NEEDY FAMILY FUND:

\$200	Michael & Janine (Salloum) Ashanin
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CONGRATULATIONS TO Gino & Jessica (Franku) Karim on the occasion of their wedding that is taking place today, Sunday, July 28th. Gino is the son of Ghassan & Ghada Karim and the brother of Giovanni Karim. **May God grant them many years!**



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

507 South Cleveland-Massillon Road

Fairlawn, OH 44333

31st Annual Lebanese Festival

DATES:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AUGUST 2nd & 3rd

11:00am - 9:00pm

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

St. Paul made clear in today's epistle reading that we must energetically use the gifts given us by the Lord, which is another way of saying that we must be actively faithful, regardless of what our particular abilities may be. Those who follow his advice will not simply blend in with the larger culture of any age, but will instead become vivid icons of what God's salvation means for human beings. The Apostle calls us to be genuine in showing love, mercy, and honor to our neighbors as we cling to what is good and allow evil no place at all in our lives. He instructs us to respond to difficult challenges with hope, patience, and prayer. And just as Christ taught, St. Paul reminds us to "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them." Obedience to these teachings demands a deep commitment that extends from the depths of our souls to every thought, word, and deed. And that is not something we accomplish simply by our own power, but by responding faithfully to the merciful grace of our Savior.

The ministry of Christ in the world is the reconciliation of God and man. Every sermon, every trip, every miracle, every chastisement, they all have the goal of showing the audience the way back to God. In our Church, this can't be stressed enough. The Christian life doesn't get its purpose from our being good, or following laws, its not a life of morality. The Christian life is also not a selfish life focused on our earthly or even heavenly satisfaction. The ministry of Christ was to reconcile God and man. Everything in the Christian life is revealed to us to heal the rift that sin has caused between every human being and their Creator. This is the purpose of the Christian life. We are created to live with God; this includes following His will and partaking in His blessings...as effects of the primary goal—my life with God.

This is why many of the Church Fathers use the image of a hospital for the Church, Christ as the good physician, the sacraments and the ascetic life as medicine for our healing. Obviously, it's not an exactly parallel image, but what this image reveals to us goes right to the heart of our lives as Christians. Christ was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary to bridge the gap between God and man, to bring healing to the broken situation of humanity. This is our focus—what must I do so that the work of Christ will not be for nothing? Or in more worldly language, as the rich man asked Christ—what must I do to be saved?

In the Gospel lesson this morning, we have this question addressed by both words and actions. Firstly, we must always remember that no matter what we might do, the work in the spiritual life of the Christian is the work of Christ. It doesn't matter what the friends of this paralytic do for him, and it doesn't matter what he does for himself, none of that will heal him. He would remain paralyzed apart from Christ. So the friends bring the man, obviously with his cooperation, he's brought to Christ. And it's at that point that healing begins. The healing happens with Christ; He heals. But it's also important to remember the work that the man and his friends did—that's the smallest part of the work, but essential. The paralytic was brought to Christ; without this action, the miracle wouldn't have happened. Christ does the work of healing our souls and bringing us to the Father; but what we do does matter. We do what Christ has asked us to do in the Gospel, love God, love our brother, the Beatitudes, this small part we offer, and then God works the miracle of our soul's healing as He knows is best (His timeline).

Second, the "work" pointed out in this miracle, and in many of our Lord's miracles, is faith. "Jesus saw their faith..." (Matthew 9: 2). In other places we hear, "your faith has made you

well,” Belief is a rational acceptance of God, and that’s not enough. And even the most committed Christians sometimes struggle with belief, because our faith can’t be indisputably rationally proven. Faith is much deeper; we know, as Christians, in the depths of our soul that our Orthodox faith is True. Faith changes one’s life. The friends of the paralytic didn’t just believe some facts about Christ, they had a faith that enabled them to act and bring their friend to God. God reveals Himself to the human soul, and this revelation is the strengthening of our faith. So even when our rational belief falters, our faith can remain strong. Don’t get down, the Fathers teach, when the demons attack us with doubt, because these doubts are on a rational level and they don’t come from our minds. Our relationship with Christ is built on faith—on our living and active relationship with God.

We also see very vividly this morning the focus of the ministry of Christ—“your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9: 2) He tells the man. Later comes bodily healing, but whether the man can walk or not has no bearing on his relationship with God. The state of his soul determines his relationship with God—his sins are forgiven, and in that moment he’s reconciled with God. The work that Christ has come to do is done. The other miracle, the healing of the man’s physical infirmity, St. John Chrysostom tell us this is done to witness to the scribes present the fact that Christ was the Messiah. Because of sin in the world, because of humanities separation from God by sin, physical infirmities plague an enormous portion of the world’s population. Sometimes, Christ heals these wounds. But this paralytic, his body is not completely whole—eventually he dies. Even Lazarus, raised from the dead by Christ, he dies again. Our Great Physician makes us right with God; we’re healed for all of eternity when our sins are forgiven and our life is “hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). Physical suffering is part of life on this earth, and as Christians we know that this suffering is evil, but we also know that it’s temporary, and ultimately it’s not our focus in the Christian life. These “Christians” that preach health and wealth are entirely off the mark; Christ never promises physical health, but total spiritual healing—which does bring “earthly happiness” in the sense that we’re fulfilling the purpose for our creation when we’re in a proper relationship with Christ. The Fathers the Church teach that spiritual health is our attainable goal in this world, and physical health is a gift of the next.

Finally, this walk with Christ, this healing offered to us by the Great Physician, is a source of unending joy. “Be of good cheer,” Christ tells the paralytic this morning (Matthew 9: 2). The peace that passes all understanding, true and lasting joy, comes to us only when we’re in a right relationship with Christ; only when we’re entirely given to the work of God in our lives. Any other state we find ourselves in will be hell, because man finds his only fulfillment in Christ. As Bishop Kallistos (Ware) is so famous for saying (perhaps repeating), God became man not only so that man could become god, but firstly, so that man could become truly man. Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Fr. John

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Mark these dates – Thursday-Sunday – October 24-27
Akron St. George Church will have the honor of hosting
Parishes of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest:
FALL GATHERING – CLERGY AND LAITY
With His Grace Bishop Anthony Presiding

• **Registration ???Double Tree Hilton Hotel - 3150 West Market St??**

Less than 10 minute drive to St. George Church
Activities will include:

- Clergy Retreat – Daily Services and Prayer Sessions
 - Youth and Young Adult Activities
 - Planning for Service Projects
- Antiochian Orthodox Ladies meetings
 - Lunches and Dinners
 - And more

An inspiring blending of worship, service, and fellowship
For questions, please contact Coordinators:
Julia Shaheen 330-495-1776 or Bob Snyder 330-285-3688

Thank you and God bless you
Very Rev. John Alassaf
Pastor, Akron St. George Church



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church <> 3204 Ridgewood Rd. <> Akron, OH 44333
Phone: 330-666-7116 <> Fax: 330-666-8292 <> Email: mail@stgeorgeakron.com
<> Web: www.stgeorgeakron.com

UPDATE ON the St. George Family Photo Album Directory: Sam Salem, Geri Farris, & Sherri Farris will be on hand this Sunday, 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.