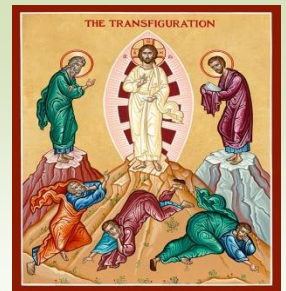




St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday, August 4th, 2019
Seventh Sunday After Pentacost
& Seventh Sunday of Mathew

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: Kareem & Hannan Halasa
Epistle Reader: Mike Kormushoff

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:

- Joe & Louise Mouridian family on the occasion of the churching of their granddaughter, Nora Elizabeth Altawil
- Patrick & Sherry Vitone
- 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 Parios, 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 & John Wright.

(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, Eleanor Alexander, Raymond Matthews & Joseph Haddad.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, 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

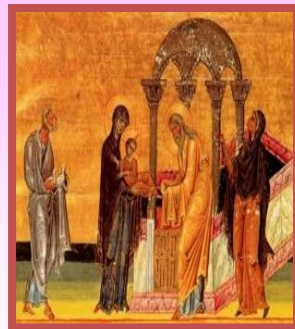
TROPARION – HYMN OF ST. GEORGE

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Jack & Dr. Houda Altawil on the churching of their daughter Nora Elizabeth Altawil. Proud grandparents are Joe & Louise Mouridian. The cake for Today's coffee hour is offered by the Alassaf family for the health of Nora Elizabeth Altawil on the occasion of her churching.
MAY GOD GRANT HER MANY YEARS!



UPDATE ON the St. George Family Photo Album Directory: Update on the Photo Album Directory: so few families have signed up for photo appointments, the Universal Company rep has asked us to shift the 10 Wednesday appointments to Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. This makes sense. So we are now contacting the families involved by phone. The revised photo dates/times are listed below. **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. We need more appointments so please call Sam Salem 330-864-3745 (Land), 330-524-7037 or samsalem@neo.rr.com. A.S.A.P.Thank you.

THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.
Until Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Amen)

THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. (Glory to thee O God. Glory to thee)

CALENDAR

TODAY Sun., August 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiochian Orthodox Women Society meeting after Divine Liturgy.. • Dormition Fast, Paraclesis Prayer 7:00 PM. Everyday except Saturday & Sunday
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 & 14 th	• NO Bible Study
Sun., August 11 th	• Basketball/Volleyball after Divine Liturgy
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.
Thurs., August 29 th	• Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Mon., Sept. 1 st	• Ecclesiastical New year

DONATIONS:

BUILDING FUND:

\$20	Peter Stevens in memory of Nancy (Elias) Stevens
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CHOIR FUND:

\$100	Cythia Shama in memory of Charles Sturm & A.E. Shama
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CONGRATULATIONS! Alex & Samantha Kincaid on the birth of their new baby boy Carson Ronald Kincaid. He was born on Thursday, July 25th, 2019. He weighs 6 lbs 15oz. Carson Ronald Kincaid is the grandson of the proud grandmother Wendy Simon and the great grandson of the proud great grandmother Mary Lou Simon & late Ronald Simon. **May God grant him many years!**



Sermon for 7th Sunday of St Matthew

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

In the book of the Prophet Isaiah it is written that, when the Messiah comes He will cure our illnesses. **“Behold, our God renders judgment, and He will render it; He will come and save us. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear”** (Is. 35:4-5).

In today’s divine Gospel this prophecy has been fulfilled before us. Two blind men, as Jesus Christ was passing by, “followed Him, crying out and saying, ‘Son of David, have mercy on us’” (Matthew.9:27). These men were deprived of the greatest gift from God, their sight, and for many years lived in darkness. They struggled to survive by begging in the streets of their home town and were unable to even see their beloved ones. Although blind, they were not deaf. They heard about Jesus of Nazareth. .

Each time our Lord Jesus Christ performs the miracle of healing He asks “Do you believe? Do you believe that I am able to do this?” When our Lord asks these questions he is knocking at the door of the hearts of men. He is looking for an opening to be let in so that not only healing may occur but salvation may occur. This is described for us in the Evangelist John’s Book of Revelation where it says “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20)

While the Lord knocks at the door of our hearts it takes action or faith on our part to let Him into our hearts. We must then also knock at His door and ask for salvation. This is confirmed in the words of our Lord when He says “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” (Luke 11:9)

We see both of these aspects of knocking at the door in today’s Gospel. The first knock is in the two blind men calling after Jesus “Son of David, have mercy on us.” (Matthew 9:27) Saint Simeon the New Theologian describes this knock at the door by the blind men in the following manner “He who prays according to the flesh, and does not also have spiritual understanding is like the blind man cried out ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ But another blind man when he received his sight and saw the Lord, no longer saw Him as the Son of David, but as the Son of God. (John 9:35-38)” Thus, any knock at the door must be to bring us to God. This is why Christ does not immediately respond to these men. Jesus does not respond because He wants their

thirst for God to increase. The second knock is when Jesus asks them “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28) Our Lord does this so that they may publicly proclaim their action of faith when they say “Yes Lord.” This should remind us that our faith is not just a personal thing that we keep to ourselves. Faith is something that must be proclaimed in order to bring others to faith.

When the men respond with the words “Yes Lord”, they leave their fleshly or earthly understanding behind and embrace the spiritual understanding. This is accomplished through their use of the word Lord. They no longer recognize Jesus as the Son of David but as the Lord, the Son of God, the God-Man, the Savior of the World. Thus, they are not only healed of their infirmities but they are brought to salvation. This is confirmed by Saint Paul in his epistle to the Romans when he says “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

All too often we seek after God through miraculous signs of His action in creation and fail to see the spiritual miracles that occur around us. Saint John Chrysostom speaks to this in the following manner “Do not therefore seek signs, but the soul’s health. Seek not to see one dead man raised; nay, for you have learned that the whole world is arising. Seek not to see a blind man healed, but behold all now restored unto that better and more profitable sight; and do you too learn to look chastely, and amend your eye.” So my dear brothers and sisters in Christ seek not after miracles. Seek rather after salvation for Christ is knocking at the door of your heart. Open the door of your hearts to Him that you may enter into the New Creation and receive the spiritual miracles that will change you and the world around you. Though this change you will be accomplishing Christ’s work to teach, preach and to heal. **Amen .**

Fr. John

SAVE THE DATE

Our ladies will begin to prepare the food for the St. George Annual Food Fair. Please bring an apron and a pot luck dish to share this Saturday for lunch. We appreciate your help!

Sat., August 10th – 9:30 am @ the Family Centre – Meat Pies

Fri., August 23rd – 9:30 am @ the Fellowship Hall – Spinach Pies

Tues., August 27th – 5:30 pm @ the Fellowship Hall – Dessert Preparation

For Questions Please Contact Kh.Rania, 330-907-9151 (cell)

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

FOOD FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH FROM 12-7

MEDITERRANEAN
AND AMERICAN FOOD

BAKE
SALE

GAMES

COTTON CANDY 50 raffle
50 tickets

GREAT MUSIC

ARABIC + ENGLISH

BOUNCE

HOUSE



RAIN OR
SHINE!

3204 Ridgewood Rd.
Fairlawn, Oh 44333



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

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