



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday, January 13, 2019

**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: Jessica Zuder

Arabic Chanter: Tanios Tabanji

TLC Catering: Joe Catalano

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

Greeter: Gloria Harb

Epistle Reader: Walid Qaqish Jr.

Acolytes:

Luke Shaheen

Andrew Shaheen

Jacob Alassaf

Charbel Abdullah

Please open the book at page 92 to follow the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

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:

- The Zawahri families for the health of Wafigah Zawahri on the occasion of her 80th birthday and children, grandchildren & great grandchildren.
- Edmund, Geri & Sherri Farris in memory of Bishop Gibran Ramlaoui of Australia
- Atef & Teresa Haddad and Family
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish Family

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Suzie Hanna, Olga Yogmour, Bonnie Dallas, Christian Simon, Margaux Yerian, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, Dawn Shaheen, Karen Horattas, Rosemary McLaughlin, John & Joyce Simon, Sophia Massouh, Hnayneh Jabbour, Don Jones, Alexandra Eid, Afaf Halasa, Sandy Mahshie, Bryan Caley, Lamia Harb, Jordan Zawahri, Oliver Devia, Pierre Nader, Sub-Deacon David Tomey, Bob Denious & Shaun & Kathy Curley.

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

David Welling, Micheline Debs, Rose Farah, Jim & Susan Hanna, Fadia Albanna, Elie Eid, Deacon Joe Harb Family, Freda Corbin, Mary Smolinski, George & Georgette Zabaneh Family, Paul Megois, 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, Habouba Rahbani, Greg Kattouf, Wagdi Anton, Antoine Aramouni, Gerald Hanna, Jackie Wilson, Vincent & Eleanor 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, David Pilversack & Regina Salloum.

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

Nick Shaheen, Norman Elias Sr., George Ostich, Anne Sayre, William Moore, Gloria Hackim, Nicholas Stevens, June Denious, Atty. George Mallo & Prof. Boutros Abu Manneh.

Monthly drawing was held on January 6th, the winners are:

#145	Christopher Roumie	\$200	#26	Kareem & Hanan Halaseh	\$50
#105	Tony & Patty Karam	\$100	#136	Mike & Carol Shaheen	\$50

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 THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (Tone 1):

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (Tone 4):

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

NOTIFICATIONS...

- * 2019 Ecclesiastical Calendars have arrived and are located on the candle stand.
- * The offering envelope boxes for the year 2019 are available in Alphabetical order for the parishioners in the lobby. **If you haven't been assigned an envelope and you would like to have one, please contact Fr. John or the office at 330-666-7116.**

CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!!!! 500 CAMPERS ARE ALREADY REGISTERED. If You are Interested, Please Register ASAP!!!!!!

Go to avcamp.org to register

For any question call Fr. John or Kh. Corinne

Antiochian Village Family Camp, May 24-27, 2019.

Visit avcamp.org for more information.

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 14, 2019



THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **Amen**

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

(Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee)

21st ANNUAL MIDWEST DIOCESE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1118 Cherry Ave NE, Canton, Ohio 44704

- **For all our teens and youth (26 years old and younger). Please Sign up.**
Applications are on the candle stand.
- **JOIN US** every Sunday after Divine Liturgy for practice in the Family Centre.
- **For more information**, see coaches Ron Francisco, Dcn. James Reale or Gary Salhany.

CALENDAR

Sun., Jan., 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • Antiochian Women Society Mtg. after Divine Liturgy
Jan., 18th - 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Annual Midwest Basketball Tournament @ St. George, Canton (Applications are on the Candle stand)
Sat., Jan., 19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox Christian Women Annual Winter Mini- Retreat (See flyer p. 6)
Mon., Jan., 21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COCA Mtg. @ 7:00 PM @ Annunciation Greek Church
Sun., Jan. 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS • 40 day Memorial Service for June Denious
Sat., Feb., 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE
Sun., Feb., 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 day Memorial Service for Atty. George Mallo
Sun., Feb., 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN • Building Fund Luncheon sponsored by Michel & Debi Halasa, Dave & Mary Pilversack, Mimi Hicks & Hanan Nader.

DONATIONS

Needy Family Fund:

\$6000	St. Nicholas Project, INC.
\$100	Nabil & May Manneh
\$100	Kathy & Shawn Curley
\$100	Mike Kormushoff for the health of Henley Ann Sloan
\$50	Habib & Regina Salloum in memory of Boutros Abu Manneh
\$35	Moussa Alsifi for the health of Terese Alsifi
\$20	Anonymous

Building Fund:

\$200	Fritz & Helen Gisewhite in memory of Atty. George Mallo
\$100	Judge Kathryn Michael & Bob Snyder in memory of Atty. George Mallo
\$100	Carl & Cheryl Massouh in memory of Prof. Boutros Abu Manneh
\$100	Schneider Downs & Company, INC in memory of Atty. George Mallo
\$25	Yvonne & Thomas Jesser in memory of June Denious
\$20	Scott & Cynthia Boswell in memory of June Denious

Camp Fund:

\$500	Anonymous in memory in memory of Norman Elias Sr.
\$500	Anonymous in memory in memory of George Ostich
\$500	Anonymous in memory in memory of Nick Shaheen Sr.
\$100	Judge Kathryn Michael & Bob Snyder for the health of Henley Ann Sloan

Foundation Fund:

\$100	John & Joyce Simon in memory of Atty. George Mallo & June Denious
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Orthodox Christian Women
Presents

Our Annual Winter Mini-Retreat
Saturday, January 19, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
755 South Cleveland Ave, Mogadore

Free Event ~~ Everyone Welcome!
No reservations required.

“Icon Secrets”



Dr. William Shaheen, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Northwestern Ohio School of Medicine

Dr. Shaheen received formal training in the technique of Byzantine Iconography, first at St. John of Damascus Sacred Arts Academy with Phil Zimmerman and later with Father Nathaniel at Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery. He has completed commissioned works for private patrons and has taught iconology as an introduction to the Orthodox Christian Faith at numerous churches, schools, and universities.

Continental breakfast will be served

*Contact Sandy Graham (330-775-2963) or
Nikki Bober (330-409-3552) for questions.*

Sermon for the Sunday after Theophany-2019

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

In the Gospel reading today, on this Sunday after Theophany, we hear the very first sermon that Christ ever gave in his public ministry: “Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!”

With just these few short words, Christ begins His earthly ministry, and he summarizes all of the Gospel that is to come. Yet the first word He says is “repent.” “Repent” in the original Greek literally means to “change one’s mind – to change one’s heart” and to “turn God-ward.” In order to see Christ and to believe in Him, we must repent. In order to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, we must repent. In order to take even the first step, we must repent.

Repentance is not a one-time thing, or some grand, romantic gesture. We who sin almost continually – if not in our actions, then in our thoughts – must constantly turn back to God and repent. To repent, we must die to ourselves and live to God. And we must die daily. And many times daily. Maybe thousands of little deaths each and every day – but death to sin and death to death. Repentance is a death that brings life! This sense of paradox is captured quite wonderfully in a quote written on a wall in St. Paul’s Monastery on Mt. Athos which says: “If you die before you die, then when you die, you will not die.”

This is a constant battle from the moment we are born until our very last breath. Repentance is not simply an emotional state. It isn’t simply feeling sorry, although this is part of it. Repentance is a turning from darkness to the light of Christ. It is about moving away from selfishness to selflessness, moving away from death to life. It is not some protracted, morose state of being. Instead, repentance brings true joy. When we truly repent and truly turn to God, then we receive the grace of God and we are joyful! When we turn to Christ in repentance, this turning brings life, light, joy and peace – the very fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are new and different – full of joy. Full of life and vigor. This is what it means to repent. This is what Christ is saying when He says, “the Kingdom of God is at hand.” This Kingdom can be experienced here and now, if we repent and turn to God.

Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life – the Living Kingdom. Christ sets for us a banquet table, and He calls us together with Him and to dine with Him. He feeds us with His own self – His own sacrifice – the Body and Blood of our Lord. And why are these two statements linked together: “Repent” and “the Kingdom of God is at hand”? It is this way because Christ is “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). He has accomplished everything for us and for our salvation. He has reconciled us to God and has prepared and acquired for us the Heavenly Kingdom. All God requires of us is that we accept it. Our salvation is given to us by God free and complete, but we must accept it.

Fr. Thomas Hopko told a story about how he was once riding in a taxi when the taxi driver looked at him and asked, “So... are you a priest?” Fr. Hopko said, “Yes, I’m an Orthodox Christian priest.” The cabbie then asked him, “Well... Are you saved?” And Fr. Hopko thought about it and said, “Yes! I am saved! Christ became Incarnate for us. He suffered, died on the Cross, was buried and rose again, all for my salvation. He did it all for us and there’s nothing more that God could possibly do to save us. The only problem,” Fr. Hopko said, “Is that I *reject* it, everyday, by my own sins and actions.”

Indeed, Christ offers us salvation, if only we will turn to Him. The Kingdom of Heaven and Christ the King are ineffably close to us – much closer than we can imagine. Closer to us than the beating of our own heart. Closer to us than our next breath. “Behold I stand at the door” of your heart, and

knock, says Christ. "If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in with him, and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Rev. 3:20) It is only through repentance that we can open wide the doors of our heart to our Saviour, the Heavenly King. On this first Sunday after Theophany, let us recall our own baptism, and our own baptismal promises. Let us turn from our sins and fix our gaze on Christ. Through a true repentance let us open wide the doors of our heart to Christ and to the Kingdom of Heaven as we look ahead towards Lent – that great season of repentance. "Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" **Amen.**

Fr. John



EPIPHANY 2019 HOME BLESSINGS

**If you would like your home blessed by Fr. John Alassaf,
please call the church office at 330-666-7116
or Fr. John at 330-907-5811**

UNITED SAGHBINE SOCIETY PRESENTS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019 @ Our Lady of the Cedars Church
507 South Cleveland-Massillon Road-Fairlawn, Ohio**

Doors open at 7 PM – Dinner served at 8 PM, Lebanese Mazza & Dinner

**Proceeds to benefit St. Anthony School in Saghbine, Lebanon. Tickets: \$100 per person
Call or text for Tickets and information: Anthony Salem 330-620-3637, George Maroun 330-697-2528, Fares Jasser 330-760-3207, Paul Salem 330-328-5577**

The cake for today's coffee hour is offered by The Zawahri families for the health of Wafigah Zawahri on the occasion of her 80th birthday and for the health of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May God Grant Her Many Years



MIDWEST DIOCESE CHANCERY FUNDRAISER

If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church with a note in the memo area
"Midwest Diocese Chancery"

**A COPY OF THE DONORS NAMES AND AMOUNT WILL BE SENT TO HIS
GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY**

Thank you and May God Bless you always