



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



Sunday, June 16th, 2019

Sunday of the Great Feast of Pentecost

**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

Greeter: Julia Shaheen

Epistle Reader: Sophia Shaheen

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:

- St. George Parish for the health of all the campers.
- Olga Yogmur for her health.
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

James Workman, Edmund & Geri Farris, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, Tom Mclaughlin, Karen Dodovich, Hoda & Gina Jabbour, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Wendy Simon, Dany Nader, 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, Cindy 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, Wafigah Zawahri, Bonnie Dallas, 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, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aramouni, Patty Sue Jones, Inyas Markarian, Violet Carey, Patricia Hanna, Alexandra Eid, Afaf Halasa, Sandy Mahshie, Bryan Caley, Lamia Harb, Suzette Saadeh, Rosemary McLaughlin, Sub-Deacon David Tomey, Joe Gabel, Robert Denious, Regina Salloum, Karen Horattas, Jim & Suzie Hanna, Mary Lou Simon, Lurice Halasa & David Pilversack.

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

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

APOLYTIKION OF PENTECOST(BEFORE AND AFTER) (TONE 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee

ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we shall praise and sing of Thy mighty acts. **Save us, O Good Comforter, who sing to Thee. Alleluia.**

KONTAKION OF PENTECOST (TONE 8)

When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN FOR THE HOLY PENTECOST

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE) *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

DONATIONS:

NEEDY FAMILY FUND:

\$250	Habib & Regina Salloum in memory of Ray Matthews
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BUILDING FUND:

\$100	Asmat & Hala Zawahri for the health of Jordan Zawahri
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CONGRATULATIONS TO Nicholas Shaheen, Jr. & Julie Wikiera their engagement. Nicholas is the son of the late Nick & Dawn Shaheen. Julie is the daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Wikiera. May God grant them many years!



A CAKE is offered today by Mike & Dawn Eid in honor of Their son Adam for earning his third degree black belt. Adam is one of the youngest in the state. Congratulations!

May God bless him & protect him always!



THE EPISTLE

Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." (**Amen**)

THE GOSPEL

(Sunday of the Great Feast of Pentecost)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, many of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our Law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (**Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee**)

CALENDAR

TODAY: Sun., June 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday of the Great Feast of Pentecost.• HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.• Antiochian Village Camp 1st Session begins.
Wed., June 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible Study with Frank Chirakos 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM @ Our Church
June 19 th – 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest Parish Life Conference.
Sun., June 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday of All Saints.
Mon., June 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.
Sat., June 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, The Holy Apostles.
Sun., June 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feast of All Saints of North America.
Thurs., July 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INDEPENDENCE DAY
Tues., July 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM
Sun., July 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball/ Volleyball @ the Family Centre following Divine Liturgy



Our kids leave today for Summer Camp at the Antiochian Village.
Be Safe and Have Fun!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life - come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.



SERMON ON THE HOLY PENTECOST

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit – one God – Amen.

On this day we recall that just 50 days after the Glorious Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon the Holy Apostles and all those gathered with them in a new and different way. For the first time, the Holy Spirit actually took up residence within the human soul.

During this period, all fasting and kneeling is prohibited as a tangible confession of the Resurrection of Christ. It is only on the actual day of Pentecost that kneeling is resumed, and is connected with a special kneeling ceremony (*akolouthia gonyklesias*), which consists of prayers for the gift of the Holy Spirit, hence the name, “Kneeling Day” (*tes gonatistes*) for Pentecost.

Before this the Spirit of God would descend upon a person for various reasons - such as when one of the prophets was inspired to speak or write or act in a particular way so that God's will might be made known to His people, but He did not make His abode within their soul. But something new happened at Pentecost, something wondrous, something marvelous - God came and dwelt not only among us as our Lord Jesus Christ, but within us through the Holy Spirit. The promise of our salvation that we would be united with God, began to be made manifest.

This indwelling of the Holy Spirit has a profound effect on the person, for by this action a transformation is begun. The soul has come into contact with God and cannot remain the same. Now it is simple to see how one's behavior might change when he has been joined to the Church. In his eagerness to learn and absorb all that our Holy Mother Church has to give us, he will follow her instructions concerning behavior and do things differently than he did before. But this change does not end there, for these new actions have an effect of their own; they begin to change the way that one thinks and perceives the world around him. If, for example, you wished to develop compassion for someone, then the best way to begin is to act as though you were compassionate and through consistent compassionate actions on the part of the body, the mind will begin to think in terms of compassion and the heart will begin to feel compassion. If you act towards someone in a loving manner, even though you may have no feeling or even feelings of dislike for them, then after even a short time, you will begin to love them in actual fact, for such is the effect of the body's action on the heart. (This truth, by the way, contradicts the idea in our society of "falling in or out of love" by demonstrating that love is not something that strikes out of the blue for some mysterious reason, rather it is the result of and is maintained by effort) But even here this change does not end, for once we develop new feelings and thoughts, then our spirit also changes and begins to develop in the

soul the spiritual fruits of these changes, called virtues, and these virtues attract the grace of God. This grace then transforms our very nature so that we no longer have a nature of sin, but begin to develop a nature which has the likeness of God.

Pascha and Pentecost are about transformation. In Pascha, we are reborn; we die and are resurrected with Christ. This new resurrected nature is then shaped and molded by the Church and it is filled with the Holy Spirit. Our Lord spoke of an unclean spirit which had been cast out of a man, and finding no place to rest thought that it would return to its former host. "And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of the man is worse than the first." (Luke 11:25 &26). When at Pascha, we are reborn and our soul is "swept and put in order", then it is necessary for our soul to be occupied, so as to prevent the demons from taking advantage, and so God in His infinite love and mercy comes Himself to dwell in us through the Holy Spirit. This is the feast of Pentecost, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the transformation which was begun at Pascha is further fulfilled in the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And the Holy Spirit within us, Himself, has the effect of transforming and shaping the soul into more perfectly taking on His own image and likeness.

But God does not act towards us as a tyrant, Who imposes His own will with no regard for our own desire, but rather He acts as a loving Father, Who enables us by our voluntary action, to submit to His will and Who works with us that we might be changed. It is therefore necessary for us to cooperate with God, to allow Him to work in us and to shape our own will to His will. If we resist Him and refuse to cooperate with His direction and His leading, then He will withdraw and will not force Himself upon us unwilling. Therefore we must develop within ourselves a desire for God which surpasses all other desire and a love for Him which is greater than any other love.

How do we develop this desire and this love? What did we just say? If you wish to love someone, then act as though you love them, and in a short time that love will begin to grow within your heart. And so if we wish to develop a supreme love for our Lord Jesus Christ, then we must begin to act as though we had such a love already. If we adjust our behavior to conform with a supreme desire and love for God, then that desire and love will grow within our heart and soul. When we desire Him, then He will fulfill our desire; when we love Him, then He will come to us. And when He comes, He will transform us into His own image and likeness and will dwell within us, uniting us to Himself. **Amen**

Happy
FATHER'S
DAY 

Happy Father's Day

A Dad is a person
who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
what you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends.
A dad can be one
of your very best friends!
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong
In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!
Thank you, Dad...
for listening and caring,
for giving and sharing,
but, especially, for just being you!
Happy Father's Day



Diocese of Toledo and The Midwest Parish Life Conference

Hosted by: St. Nicholas Church; Urbana,
IL.

University of Illinois Newman Center.
Holiday Inn Champaign Suites
June 19 - 22, 2019

The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
Parish Life Conference ("PLC") is less
than 1 week away so please make
your reservations today!

The PLC will be held at the Holiday Inn
Champaign Suites from June 19 - 22, 2019.
The negotiated Room rate is \$104.99/ per
night/per room.

Orthos, Divine Liturgies, Bible Bowl,
Oratorical Festival and so much more!

For more information and to check the
schedule for all The Wonderful events
on the Parish Life Conference, please visit:
www.antiochianevents.com/toledo.htm