



# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church



**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**  
**Sunday of the Blind Man**

**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](mailto:yohanna-1965@hotmail.com)**

***Every Sunday:***

***Matins 9:30 AM***

***Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM***

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
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**Ph: 330-666-7116/Fax: 330-666-8292**  
**[mail@stgeorgeakron.com](mailto:mail@stgeorgeakron.com)**

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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](mailto:joe@tlccateringinc.com)

**Greeters**: Tom & Rosemary McLaughlin

**Epistle Reader**: Walid Qaqish Jr.

**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:**

- Alice Elias family for the health of Elias family & in memory of George & Norman Elias, Sr. (1 year). The Trisagion following the Divine Liturgy.
- Charlotte Shaheen for the health of her family & Jan Kattouf & in memory of Fred Nicholas Shaheen, Sam & Mary Kattouf, Betty & Bob Khouri, Nicholas, Afeefeh, Miriam & Carl Shaheen and Deeb Turk.
- Atef & Teresa Haddad family.
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish family.

### **Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:**

Tom Mclaughlin, Karen Dodovich, Hoda & Gina Jabbour, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Olga Yogmur, 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, Fr. George Elsoury, Margaux Yerian, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, John Dodovich Family, Hala Zawahri, Paul Megois, John & Joyce Simon, George Tebcherani, Edmund & Geri Farris, 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 Saily, 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, Norman Elias Sr., Eleanor Alexander, Akram Zawahri, Raymond Matthews, George Zagaib Sr. & Joseph Haddad.

## **PASCHAL APOLYTIKION, DURING & AFTER LITTLE ENTRANCE**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life.

### **THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA**

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel. O Son of God, who didst rise from the dead, save us, who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

### **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.

### **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 – HYMN FOR HOLY PASCHA (Tone 8)**

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

### **MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA (Tone 1)**

*The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

*Christ is Risen!  
Al Maseeh Qam!  
Kristos Anesti!  
Hristos Voskrese!  
Hristos Vaskrese!  
Kristos A Inviat!*

*Truly He is Risen!  
Haqan Qam! (Arabic)  
Alithos Anesti! (Greek)  
Navistina Voskrese! (Macedonian)  
Vaistinu Vaskrese! (Serbian)  
Adeverat a Inviat! (Romanian)*

## **NEEDY FAMILY FUND DONATION:**

\$25

Vincent Alexander in memory of Eleanor Alexander

## THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)**

In those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God. (Amen)

## THE GOSPEL

*(Sunday of the Blind Man)*

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)**

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes

with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him. **(Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee)**



# CALENDAR

<b>Sun., June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday of the Blind Man.</b></li> <li>• <b>Parking Lot Party after Divine Liturgy.</b></li> <li>• <b>Antiochian Orthodox Women Society meeting after Divine Liturgy.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wed., June 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Divine Liturgy of The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 PM.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Thurs., June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sun., June 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday of Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council.</b></li> <li>• <b>Basketball/Volleyball @ the Family Centre after Divine Liturgy.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Tues., June 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parish Council meeting 7:30 PM.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sun., June 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday of Pentecost.</b></li> <li>• <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.</b></li> <li>• <b>Antiochian Village Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Session begins.</b></li> </ul>
<b>June 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest Parish Life Conference (check flyer on the church board).</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sun., July 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday of All Saints.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Mon., July 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sat., July 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feast of Saints Peter &amp; Paul, the Holy Apostles.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sun., July 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feast of All Saints of North America.</b></li> </ul>



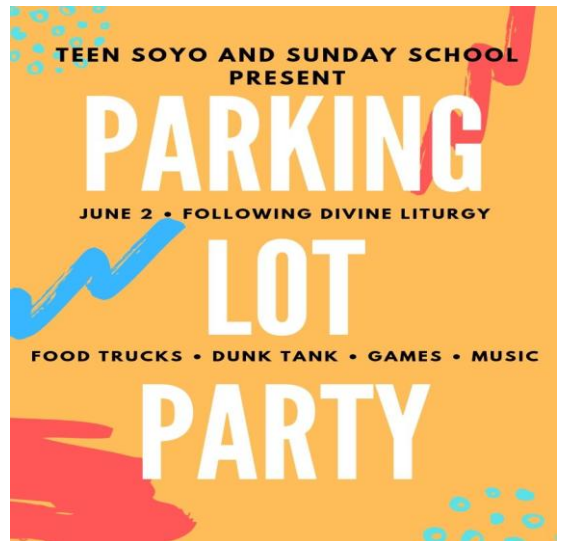
**Spare Change Sunday**

**JUNE 2ND**

**Bring your spare change!!**

The money will go towards Teen SOYO to help raise money for the camp fund!

**HELP US FILL OUR BUCKET**



TEEN SOYO AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PRESENT

**PARKING**

JUNE 2 • FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

**LOT**

FOOD TRUCKS • DUNK TANK • GAMES • MUSIC

**PARTY**



## SERMON ON SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

### In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Christ is Risen!

Of our five senses, Sight is probably the most dominant. When we lose our sense of sight, it can be devastating. Much of our independence is lost and we are left to rely on others for many things in our daily lives. But, as tragic as it is to lose our sense of sight, what is even more serious is the blindness of the heart. When we are spiritually and morally blind, our soul becomes steeped in darkness. Without the guiding light of Christ, the path

to eternal life is obscure and we flounder about lost in the design our own making.

Our Gospel reading this morning talks about a man who has been physically blind from birth. He has no idea what his parents look like. He's never seen a sunrise or a sunset all his life. The beauty of a rose or the blossoms of an orange tree is unimaginable to him. Most of his dreary life is spent begging on the streets of Jerusalem. The Disciples ask Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should have been born blind?" He tells them that no one's sins caused this man's blindness. This blindness is rather an opportunity for God to make His works visible through the blind man.

And that is exactly what happens. Jesus takes this opportunity to heal the man and in this way confirms what John's Gospel says about Jesus that He is indeed the light of the world. Without Jesus we would all live in darkness. When Jesus said that He was the light of the world, He now proves it by restoring the sight of this man.

In the miracle of the healing of this blind man Jesus draws a distinction between those who know they are blind and those who say that they can see. The story ends with Jesus saying that there is no excuse for the blindness of the religious leaders. It's not so much that they can't see, it's rather the fact that they don't want to see. It's a lot like selective hearing. At times we hear only what we want to hear. Likewise there is a degree to what we see and to what we want to see.

The Pharisees had a closed door policy when it came to understanding Jesus. They couldn't see that Jesus was the promised Messiah and yet, the blind man came to see Him as the Son of God. The Lord discloses many things about Himself every day to those who are open to His teaching. In this instance He was disclosing Himself in the miracle of the restoration of sight in the blind man. But the Pharisees, who could see, missed it because of their blindness.

How many people do you know that don't believe in miracles. There are many who have difficulty in accepting the fact that a miracle has taken place and are stubborn in accepting it as a miracle. They feel that they are just too sophisticated to believe in such things. But miracles do happen and at times an even deeper but less dramatic miracle takes place that we tend to overlook.

The Pharisees were closed to the miracle that Jesus had just performed a healing of the blind man. They were afraid to accept the fact that there was an even deeper miracle happening when many of the witnesses received the inner sight of faith and came to believe in Jesus. The Pharisees were afraid that if most of the people began to believe in Jesus, they would lose their authority and their position in society.

Jesus' words and actions, His spitting on the ground and anointing the blind man's eyes with mud, seemed rather an unorthodox way to heal someone of blindness. But, as unorthodox as that method may seem, Jesus does it purposely and deliberately. We can relate this incident to a previous one in the Old Testament. If you recall in Genesis, when God created Adam, He "shaped man from the soil of the ground". (Gen. 2:7 TNJB) Jesus tells us that He continues to carry on the work of creation that began long, long ago but is not as yet completed. In our Gospel reading this morning, Jesus uses the soil of the ground to rid the man of his blindness. "...He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man,...Siloam" (Jn. 9:6-7 TNJB). The Pharisees, who had perfect vision, couldn't connect the two incidents. They were spiritually blind. What do you suppose causes spiritual blindness?

The Father of Jesus is the author of life, the origin of love, the Father of compassion, the Lord of Light. He is the One who alleviates suffering, who cares for the poor, who does not take revenge, who does not crave power, who died on the Cross so that all may live, who asks that we turn the other cheek, that we do not judge, that we pray quietly in our closets, that we return good for evil, that we lend and love without expecting anything in return. He is the one whose kingdom is not of this world and who calls us to make His righteous kingdom our home.

We are called to do one thing: "to cultivate an inner garden in which the Divine Word may grow and flourish." (St. John Climacus) The Divine Word can only grow in the soil of love and compassion. We have the choice to choose a higher way, the narrow path of self-transcendence, be healed of our own blindness and become like God. **Amen** **Fr. John**