



# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 23, 2018

**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**

**3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron OH 44333**

**Ph: 330-666-7116/Fax: 330-666-8292**

**Email: [mail@stgeorgeakron.com](mailto:mail@stgeorgeakron.com)**

Rev. Protodeacon Joseph Harb

Rev. Deacon James Reale

Sub-deacons: Sam Snyder, & Samer Zawahri

Church School Director: Kh. Corinne Mahshie  
& Jan Kattouf

Parish News Coordinator:

Kh. Rania Alassaf (330)-907-9151

Choir Director: Kim Shama Hanna

Arabic Chanter: Tanios Tabanji

Young Adult Advisor: Dr. Bill Shaheen

Web Master: Jessica Zuder

TLC Catering: Joe Catalano

(330)-607-4360 or [joe@tlccateringinc.com](mailto:joe@tlccateringinc.com)

**Greeters:** Tom & Rosemary McLaughlin

**Epistle Reader:** Sam Salem

**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:

- Atef & Teresa Haddad and Family
- Olga Yogmour
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish Family

## Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Christian Simon, Margaux Yerian, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, Edmund & Geri Farris, Dawn Shaheen, Mary Lou Simon, Wafiga Zawahri Family, David Welling, Shaun Curley, Karen Horattas, Marie Saïdy, Bonnie Dallas, Rosemary McLaughlin, Ann Sayre, Violet Carey, Joyce Simon, Micheline Debs, Rose Farah

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

Fadia Albanna, Carl Massouh, Elie Eid, Deacon Joe Harb Family, Helen Dadas, Freda Corbin, Ethan Wernecke, Mary Smolinski, George & Georgette Zabaneh Family, Paul Megois, Richard Morrow, Marsha Lindsay, Tony Jaber, Celia Kulmala, Sophia Britton, Kristen Sage, David & Mary Pilversack, Elie Asmar, Daisy Salem, Jihan & Hamodeh Albanna, Atty. George Mallo, Rachel D'Fantis, Madeleine Khoueiry, Kelsey Thompson, Sandra Shofani, Maroun Benchi, Peter George, Landon Skidmore, Mirna Debs, Sabrina, Matthew Hallowell, Susan Bogunovich, Tina Gmerek, John Bourjaily, Larry Ciavarella, Josephine Katzbach, Becky Burtoff, Brianne Dishong, Wilma Seely, John Stevens, Johnny Bennett Stevens, Kory Wiita, Mildred Halamay, Norma Kakish, Botros Kerro, Elie Sherfan, John Mashni, Helen Zimmerman, Kathy Curley, Issam Halasa, Sadie Kannam, Carl Moore, Habouba Rahbani, Greg Kattouf, Edward L. Collins, Wagdi Anton, Antoine Aramouni, Gerald Hanna, John Simon, Jackie Wilson, Ralph & Rosalie Yerian, Vincent & Eleanor Alexander, Antoinette Jabbour, June Denios, Isaac & Gamalat Gaid, Ghassan & Mona Ashkar, Romeo Jajju, Jackie Shama, Robert , Larry Kobbs., Dr. Richard Esper, Amanda Hagger, Pat Magette, Jordan Miller, Bob & Flo Howell, Bentley Licitiri, Kathy Velikoff, Jan Kattouf, Mike Shuman Shawns, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aramouni, Dr. Tom Shaheen

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

Hannah Kakish, George Ostich, Nathme Al-Smeirat, Norman Elias Sr, Richard Simon, Laurice Tabanji , Myrna Kalail, Jerrie Elias, Jerges Allassaf , Irene Kinchelo , Donald Kinney and David Carey

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT**

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 CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

## **APOLYTIKION OF ST. EUPHEMIA IN TONE FOUR**

Rejoice, O thou barren one who hadst not borne until now; \* for lo, in all truth thou hast conceived the lamp of the Sun, and he shall send forth his light \* over all the earth, which is afflicted with blindness. \* Dance, O Zachariah, and cry out with great boldness: \* The one to be born is the blest Prophet of God Most High.

## **TROPARION 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 IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee..

**Sunday School started **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018****

our children online <https://goo.gl/forms/su18MWVMJ7U0dKhH2>



**If you are unable to register online, paper registration forms are located on the candle stand!**

**Congratulations** to John Robert & Lauren

Patrice (Kormushoff) Sloan on the birth of their baby girl  
Henley Ann on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Proud grandparents are Michael & Patrice Kormushoff.



**May God Grant Her Many Years**

## THE EPISTLE

(For the Conception of St. John the Baptist)

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)**

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married"

## THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Luke)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)**

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

## Donations:

### Building Fund:

\$100	Carl & Cheryl Massouh for the health of the Massouh families

### Needy Fund:

\$25	Mary Lou Simon in memory of Jerges Alassaf
\$ 200	James & Susan Hanna for the health of their family

## CALENDAR

Sun., Sept., 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conception of John the Baptist</li><li>• <b>Backpack blessing</b> : Children are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to church as Fr John blesses our children for a safe and successful school year. Each student will receive a special tag to attach to his/her backpacks</li></ul>
Sat., Sept., 29 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 40 day memorial for David Carey</li></ul>
Sun., Sept., 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 40 day memorial Service for Jerrie Elias</li></ul>
Sun., Oct., 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Fund Luncheon sponsored by Teen SOYO and The Antiochian Women</li></ul>
Sun., Oct., 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Camp Liturgy</li><li>• One Year Memorial Service for Issa Michael</li></ul>
Oct., 18 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clergy Retreat &amp; Fall Gathering/ Toledo ,Ohio</li></ul>
Fri., Nov., 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Save the Date</b></p> St. George Annual Building Fund Raffle@ The Family Center
Sun., Nov., 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Festival @ the Fellowship Center

## Homily for the First Sunday of Luke

### In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Today we begin reading Gospel passages from Luke on Sunday mornings. This is called the First Sunday of Luke. Seeing that Luke will be our companion for the next weeks, it might be good to take a look at a few of his themes. Every Gospel has its own perspective and agenda. Luke's Gospel presents a vision of Christ and the Christian life .

In today's Gospel reading St. Peter with the rest of the holy Apostles were astonished at the catch of fish which they had caught. Christ our Lord had sat in St. Peter's boat and was teaching the people. The Disciples had worked very hard all night long, but they had caught nothing. St. Peter at the commandment of Christ let down the net and then God's blessings came, for "they caught a great number of fish".

Obedience to God's Will is man's first and foremost duty. Second most important is to carry out His Divine Commandments. The godly man strives to conform himself to whatever God wishes. Man through obedience to God identifies himself with God, and his will with God's Divine Will. The holy Apostle Peter at the greatest moment of his difficult hours of disappointment and depression, showed obedience to Christ. The result is obvious. God blesses the work of all those who struggle with honesty. In our daily struggle to survive there are some moments, when we feel let down. Many times despair and dissolution overcome our hearts, when we hope for some things that do not come right.

How many times do we turn to God and not see any results? Did God not hear our prayers? Is He relaxing in His Heavenly Kingdom and does not care for us? No! The answer to these questions lie in that we must not only turn to God, but we must also learn to trust God.

**St. Peter not only accepted Christ in his fishing boat**, but also showed absolute obedience to His commandment. Without a second discussion he threw the nets into the shallow waters of Gennesaret. Because of his obedience God blessed his work.

Now, how many times does it happen in our life that we have to accept Christ in our boat, and in our hearts, we have to be obedient to Him? How many times do we say that we believe in the Lord, but, we have to effort and to bow and humble ourselves before Him.

How many times do we pray to God, but have to trust Him. How many times do we find ourselves in difficult situations and we ask for God's help and assistance, but in reality we do not believe in His Providence? How many times do we believe that God will interfere, like magic, to fulfil our wishes? Finally, how many times, when we see no results of Divine intervention, we turn away from God?

St. Peter was blessed, because he showed obedience to Christ. God's blessings came as the result of Peter's obedience to His Will. The miracle at Gennesaret came about because of St. Peter's faithfulness. St. Peter knew very well, being an experienced fisherman, that there could be no fish in the shallow waters of Gennesaret. All night long he worked with his collaborators and, yet, they caught nothing. But, he showed obedience to Christ's word and he let down the nets. For Christ's sake he did not hesitate. He did not say, that 'We are wasting our time'. He just obeyed and trusted Christ's word.

We all work hard. We all run here and there and we struggle to build up our businesses. Some even work after hours even at night. We all strive for our daily bread. But, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. All these reasons are possible. But, the main reason is the lack of true faith and trust in God.

In our times, man has learned not to trust God or anyone else, but only himself. We have not surrendered ourselves completely to God's Divine Providence or we lack of true faith. This is one of the main reason why many Christians do not come every Sunday to Church.

Lack of faith is the spiritual illness of today's society. Lack of faith has as its result that we do not pray every day or even if we do so, then our hearts are not turned to God, but wonder here and there. Lack of faith is the reason why we do not obey God's Commandments and we do not trust ourselves in His Will. Lack of faith is the reason why man does not believe in God and His Teachings. Lack of faith is the reason why man turns to evil deeds and is disobedient to God's Word.

If we wish to have God's blessings in our homes, our works and our lives, then we have to turn to Him, bow before Him and trust ourselves to His Divine Providence. Let us imitate St. Peter's example. Let us show trust and faith in Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let us practice God's Commandments. Let us be obedient to His Divine Will. This way of life will bring upon us God's blessings. This is the way for our salvation, to be before God and surrender ourselves to Him. **Amen .**

**Fr. John**

**A cake is offered today on the occasion of  
Edmund & Geri Farris's 65th Wedding Anniversary**

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS**



**Congratulations to Demetri & Margaret (Aramouni)  
Ghouche on the birth of their baby girl Jacqueline  
Anastasia (6lbs 8 oz ) on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> ,2018.  
Proud grandparents are Antoine & + Jacqueline Aramouni  
and Kasam & Khoula Ghouche.  
May God Grant her Many Years!!**

**Thank you for your help & Support!**

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Fund Raffle**

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2018**

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron, OH 44333**

**Complimentary bar and hors d'oeuvres 6:30 pm  
Dinner for two, including Beef & Chicken Kabob 7:15 pm**

**Donation \$125.00 for 2 dinners  
Extra Dinner \$35.00**

**Winner need not be present**

**Grand Prize - \$4000.00**

**Only 125 Tickets will be sold**

**Chairmen: Tony Debs and Mousa Kakish**

**Please make check payable to: St. George Building Fund**

**Comptroller: Mary Lou Simon**

**Announcer: Tony Karam**

**Front Desk: Gary Salhany, Tony Debs and Mousa Kakish.**

**Door: Jan Kattouf, Mary Pilversack & Mirna Debs**

**Side Boards: Alice Elias**

**Special Fundraiser: Walid Qaqish Family**

**For more information**

**Church office 330-666-7116**

**V.Rev Fr.John 330-907-5811**

**Raeda Kakish 330-475-4968**

**Mirna Debs 330-958-0575**