

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

December 9, 2012

CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY THE RIGHTEOUS ST. ANNA

Tone – 2

5th Matins Gospel {Luke 24:12-35}

Altar Servers: **St. Michael** team {Karim Al-Khoury, captain} Next Week – **St. Elias** team

Confessions

8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44

8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91

10:00am

Memorial Service

Trisagion p.183

Welcome to St. George! Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word “*Liturgy*” means *work of the people* which means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God’s grace to enter. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (through Baptism and/or Chrismation) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, prayer, being on time for church, being at peace with others, attending the Divine Liturgy regularly, and fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before). If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe. Please know that everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Gospel and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy. All are welcome to our Coffee Fellowship in the hall after Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy** of **St. John Chrysostom** {*The Golden-Mouth*}, we sing these special hymns:

Third Antiphon (during the Little Entrance)

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One. Then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ Thou giver of Life, Glory to Thee O our God.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 2 (*as above*)

Troparion for St. Anna—Tone 4

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened. God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised that they should give birth, against hope, to the Maiden of God; from whom He, the Infinite One was to be born, becoming man. Commanding the angel to shout to her: Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Troparion of St. George—Tone 4

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 souls’ salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين مُحرراً ومُعْتَقاً، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضداً وناصراً وللمرضى طبيباً وشافياً وعن المؤمنين مكافحاً ومُحَارِباً أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس الأبيس الظفر تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion for St. Anna—Tone 4

All the world doth celebrate with festive joy the Theotokos' conception by Anna on this day, because it came to pass through God; for by divine grace she has conceived her that beyond words conceives the Word of God.

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 4:22-27* {Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna}

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:10-17* {10th Sunday of Luke}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Zahra Hayek for the health of her family especially **Zahra, Walid, Wael, Naila, Jackleen, Mirvat, Amal, Khouloud, Hanida, Casandra, Michael, Evan, Steven, Mariann, Reem, Qusta,** and **Matthew** and in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather **Qusta**.
- Alberta Issaq and Family for the health of their families and in loving memory of her parents **Victoria** (5 years) & **Albert** (14 years), and brothers **David** (8 years) & **Richard** (8 years) **Salim**.
- Janett, Jamal, Tamer, Samer, and Yara Abuaita for the health of their family especially **Philip** (80th) and **Manal** on the occasion of their birthdays – *May God grant them many years!*
- St. George Parish for the health of their families and our beloved **Choir** and **Chanters** -- *May God grant them many years!*
- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch** (+December 5th) and **Khouriya Jean Chromiak** (+November 5th, wife of our former pastor the late V. Rev. Fr. John).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Clemence** (Dn. Mike's mother) and **Jonathan Bassett, George Damouni** (brother of Lina Burbar and May Gantos), **James David, Jr., Jessica Dedow** (former parishioner), **Samira Gantous, Camille Ghantous, Nadera Ghantous, Phyllis Good, Carol Haddad, Roland Haddad, Gabby Joubran** (Najwa Joubran's brother-in-law), **Betty Khouri, Jean Khouri, John Khouri, Mariam Khoury, Mary Khoury, Norma Lazar, Lourice Matta, Megan Meade** (relative of Bob Teunion), **Danny Mortensen, Elaine Salim, Elaine Shaheen, Michael Silpoch, Marie Skafi, William Sophiea Jr., Kinan Turjman** (Sahar Abdallah's nephew), and **Sandra Mitri** and the newborn **Yasmeen** (November 19th).
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Marlen Odeh**.

Communion Hymn *(for the Lord's Day)*

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! *(Refrain)*

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! *(Refrain)*

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! *(Refrain)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

- Please remember **ONLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS** who have **PREPARED THEMSELVES** may partake of Holy Communion.
 - If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion. If you have a special need, please let one of the ushers know so we may assist you.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Majdi and Rula Alkazaha*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: December 23rd, January 13th, 20th, and 27th -- sign-up poster is in the Hall. Hosting information is in the Hall and Lounge and includes: bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. *During the Christmas Fast (November 15th - December 24th), no meat or dairy products are to be served.*

SERVICE FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAST This Christmas Service is a beautiful service which is a meditation on our Lord's Nativity. All are welcome this Tuesday at 6:30pm to come, pray, and prepare ourselves for Christmas as we continue the Christmas Fast!

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name isn't listed, call the church office. The calendars are given by our Ladies Auxiliary, THANK YOU, LADIES! – please only take 1 per family! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. **Parents**, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

ST. NICHOLAS STORE! KIDS! Want to buy a present for your parents, teachers, grandparents, Godparents, friends, brothers or sisters? Come and visit after Church School where you'll find just the right present! There will be something for everybody on your list! We'll even gift-wrap it for you! But hurry, the store will only be open for 2 Sundays!

THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION)

The Christmas Fast is THE TIME for all parishioners to receive the Holy Sacrament of Repentance (Confession) -- especially if you plan on receiving Holy Communion at Christmas Divine Liturgy (December 24th). Fr. Joe hears Confessions by appointment before or after most Divine Services, Sundays between 8:30am-9:30am, by appointment during the week, and on Saturday evenings after Great Vespers which is the perfect time when Father is not rushed. Please do not wait until the last minute! If you would like to go to one of the other Orthodox priests, please call Fr. Angelo Maggos (Assumption, 810-732-2660), Fr. Paul Jannakos (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-629-4427), or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 810-744-0070). Confessing of our sins opens the door to our personal celebration of our Lord's Nativity -- **PLAN NOW and BE PREPARED!!!**

PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF REPENTANCE (CONFESSION) There are many different ways to prepare for this Holy Sacrament. One way is based on the Ten Commandments as a starting point. Information in both English and Arabic are available on the Narthex Table – please help yourself!

December 9th — CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY BY ST. ANNA

St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time St Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as St Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by St Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by St Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

In the icon, Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.

From ancient times in Russia, this feast was especially venerated by pregnant women.

COMING EVENTS

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| This Week | On Thursday, November 15 th , we began the traditional 40-day CHRISTMAS FAST in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25 th . The CHRISTMAS FAST is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 th to December 19 th when the traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, or oil</i>) is observed on all days except Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays when, <i>fish, wine, and oil</i> are permitted. |
| TODAY | High School Class with Fr. Joe and Fr. Anthony after Divine Liturgy |
| Monday | Bible Study: Gospel of St. Mark 3-5pm Book Club 6pm |
| Tuesday | Service of the Christmas Fast 6:30pm |
| Wednesday | Arabic/English Study of the Divine Liturgy 1pm-2:30pm SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm |
| Saturday | Storage Room Cleaning by our Organizations and Departments 2pm Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm |

MOST. REV. METROPOLITAN PHILIP

RT. REV. BISHOP ANTHONY



ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST

The Self-Ruled
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

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December 5th, 2012

Beloved Clergy of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest,

Christ is in our midst.

You have likely already received notification from His Eminence Metropolitan Philip (through Fr. George Kevorkian) regarding the passing of His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV. We are all saddened by the great loss suffered by the Patriarchate of Antioch, including this Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America.

As I mentioned in a previous e-mail, I had the opportunity to meet with His Beatitude one year ago as Archbishop Joseph, Bishop John, Bishop Nicholas, about 50 men, women and youth from this Archdiocese and I traveled to the "Beautiful Mountain" (Balamand) in Lebanon for the consecration of 3 new Antiochian Bishops and the elevation to Archbishop. Patriarch Ignatius personally greeted each member of the delegation in his home, constructed just steps from the Balamand Monastery and the University of Balamand. He served a beautiful Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning as he laid his hand upon the head of each of our new hierarchs. His love for the flock of Christ was evident in every way throughout our visit.

These are just a few of the memories that I will hold with me. I know that many of you know well or have met His Beatitude and have personal memories of your own. And to remember, in the Orthodox understanding, is to "re"-member - to make present with us again. As we all have experienced his leadership of the Church of Antioch, with the directing hand of the Holy Spirit, let us all remember our beloved Patriarch Ignatius IV in our prayers and in the Holy Eucharist.

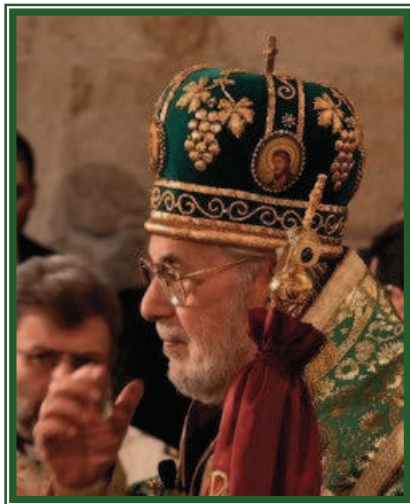
Please accept my personal condolences to you for your loss. May his memory be eternal.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

**Auxiliary Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

**cc: Metropolitan Philip
Antiochian Hierarchs**



Patriarch Ignatius IV at the consecration of newly elected bishops for North America

December 11, 2011



Patriarch Ignatius IV with the Bishops-elect from North America in his home at the Balamand

December 9, 2011



Patriarch Ignatius IV with Archbishop Joseph and the newly consecrated bishops: (left to right) Bishop Nicholas, Bishop Anthony, and Bishop John

December 11, 2011



Patriarch Ignatius IV gives the final blessing at Divine Liturgy

December 11, 2011



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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December 9, 2012

**Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday
Print in the Bulletin and Read from the Pulpit**

“I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.” (Psalm 103:33-34)

Beloved Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

We greet you during this holy season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, praying that you are all in good health.

During this joyous season, we take the time out of our busy schedules to honor the choirs and chanters of our parishes. While they are faithful each and every Sunday, feast day, sacrament and other service throughout the year, we too often take them for granted. Today, however, is a day to thank them for their dedication and service to the Church. If we stop for a moment and think how dull our services would be without our choirs, most especially during special seasons such as this one, we realize the importance they play in the life of the parish. Having traveled all over our God-protected Archdiocese, I thank God that wherever I go, I am fortunate to hear beautiful voices singing praises to our Lord.

In appreciation, therefore, for the tremendous contribution which our choirs are making to our parishes, we proclaimed the second Sunday in December as “Choir Sunday” last year. This year, that Sunday falls on December 9, 2012. We thus urge our beloved clergy and parish councils to honor our choirs and chanters on this day by doing something special in their honor.

Your Father in Christ,

+Metropolitan PHILIP

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America