

St. George Orthodox Church

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V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Dn. Michael Bassett

Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

September 15, 2013

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

Tone – 3

1st Matins Gospel {*Matthew 28:16-20*}

Altar Servers: **St. George** team {Fadi Odeh, Captain}

Next Week – **St. Nicholas** 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 the reception of Holy Communion, if prepared. 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 Cross 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,

First Antiphon - Psalm 21

Verse 1. O God, my God, look on me; why hast Thou forsaken me?

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation. *Refrain*

Verse 3. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not. *Refrain*

Verse 4. But Thou, the praise of Israel, dwellest in the sanctuary. *Refrain*

Glory to the Father ... , now and ever Amen. *Refrain*

Second Antiphon - Psalm 73

Verse 1. O God, why hast Thou cast us off forever?

Refrain: O Son of God who was crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old. *Refrain*

Verse 3. This is Mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt. *Refrain*

Verse 4. God is our King of old: working salvation in the midst of the earth. *Refrain*

Glory to the Father... now and ever Amen. *Only begotten Son...*

Third Antiphon - Psalm 98

Verse 1. The Lord reigneth, let the people rage: He sitteth upon the cherubim, let the earth be moved.

Verse 2. The Lord is great in Zion: and He is high above all the people.

Verse 3. Let them give thanks to Thy great name: for it is holy.

Troparion of the Elevation of the Holy Cross – Tone 1: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thy inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

. خلص يا رب شعبك وبارك ميراثك، وامنح ملوكنا المؤمنين الغلبة على البربر، واحفظ بقوة صليبيك جميع المختصين بك

Entrance Hymn

Verse: Exalt ye the Lord our God. Worship at His footstool for He is Holy.

Refrain: O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto Thee, Alleluia!

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the Heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty thing with His own hand. He has trampled death by His death and has become the first-born from the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting to the people of the world His great mercy.

Troparion of the Holy Cross—Tone 1 (as above)

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 مُحرِّرٌ ومُعْتِقٌ، وللْفُقَرَاءِ والمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وللمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعِنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشَّهَادَةِ جَاوِرِ جِيُوسِ اللَّأْبَسِ الظَّفَرِ تَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ فِي خَلَاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

Kontakion for the Holy Cross—Tone 4

Do Thou, who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new nation which is called by Thy Name. Make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Epistle Reading: *Galatians 2:16-20* {Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross}

Gospel Reading: *Mark 8:34-9:1* {Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross}

Flower and Basil Offerings for the Elevation of the Holy Cross

- The Shaheen Family for the health of their family and in loving memory of parents **George** and **Beatrice** and brother **Kenneth**.
- **Karam** and **Aida Nassar** and **Emile** and **Hiam Bathish** for the health of their families.

Holy Bread Offerings

- Sami and Nayfeh Alsahouri and Family for the health of their family especially **Salem**, **Suhail**, **Nuha**, **Huda**, **Eva**, and **Suhad Sawalha** and in loving memory of **Issa Odeh Sawalha** (+September 7th, Jordan, Nayfeh's brother), **Haider**, **Maher**, **Zuhair**, **Odeh**, and **Elain Sawalha**.
- The Bathish children, their spouses, and children for their health and especially for parents and grandparents **Emile** and **Hiam Bathish** their children and grandchildren on the occasion of their 56th anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and for sister and aunt **Reem** (Bathish) **Ramirez** on the occasion of her birthday -- *May God grant them many years!*
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially sons **Fred**, **Omar**, and **Salam**.

- Heather and Alexandra Nassar for the health of their family especially parents **Jamil** and **Victoria** on the occasion of their 42nd anniversary of being united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and **Alexandra** on the occasion of her birthday – *May God grant them many years!*

Baptism/Chrismation Days

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for their teachers and/or students who are celebrating their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- ◆ **Cecilia Rishmawi** – September 19th

May our children be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- This morning we pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Azar Lahoud** (+August 8th, Lina Elia's father), **Yousef Sharif** (+August 11th, friend of our parish), **Samir Ishak** (+August 14th, Vera Farah's cousin), **David Tome** (+August 19th, brother of Joe from St. Nicholas), and **Elaine Hernwick** (+September 2nd, Leslee Abud's cousin).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Androlla Abu Aita**, **Hanna Abuaita**, **John Abuaita**, **Housam Abousamra**, **Evelyn Delbridge**, **Ayman Elias**, **Camille Ghantous**, **Nadera Ghantous**, **Phyllis Good**, **Carol Haddad**, **Roland Haddad**, **Donald Hawkins**, **Mary Ibrahim**, **Betty Khouri**, **Jean Khouri**, **John Khouri**, **Mariam Khoury**, **Janet Lakis**, **Norma Lazar**, **Lourice Matta**, **Danny Mortensen**, **Elaine Salim**, **Elaine Shaheen**, **Michael Silpoch**, **Marie Skafi**, **William Sophiea Jr.**, and **Lois Teunion** (Bob's wife). **Jennifer** (Peera) **Khoshaba** (daughter of Situ Najwa Joubran) and the newborn **Emma** (August 31st). **Alexa Nassif** (daughter-in-law of George and Jeanette) and the newborn **Genevieve Adele** (Sept. 3rd).
- We pray for those who are with child: **Kristen** (Abraham) **Baradihi** and **Nadeen Jaraysa**. Former parishioners and friends: **Amanda** (Daoud) **Alyatim** and **Lisa Thomas** (daughter-in-law of Doug and Sandy Thomas).

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Emile and Hiam Bathish*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: October 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.

FR. JOE—OUT-OF-TOWN Fr. Joe is attending the Assembly of Bishops Meeting in Chicago, IL tomorrow until Thursday. **For emergencies only while Fr. Joe is away**, please call Fr. Angelo Maggos (Assumption, 810-771-4611), Fr. Paul Jannakos (St. Mary Magdalene, 810-750-1401), or Fr. Matthew Butrie (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 810-744-0070). Please pray for his safe travels and the work of the Assembly of Bishops.

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY!

The Parish Council has called this special meeting TODAY immediately after Divine Liturgy. This important meeting is regarding the Fixing of our Roof on our entire Complex (Church, Lounge, Church School, and Hall). Please plan on attending.

FUNDRAISING DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION This major fundraiser is taking place on Saturday, October 5th. Tickets include 2 dinners and a chance for the top cash prize of \$3,000 and are available from any Parish Council member for \$150. Help is needed from our parishioners for donating Silent Auction items and/or donating money toward items that will be bought – please see Michael Silpoch as soon as possible. Get your tickets TODAY!

COLLECTION BOXES Did you know that we have collection boxes at St. George for *BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION, *pop can TABS, *VG's receipts, *eyeglasses, and *FOOD for Catholic Charities? Items can be put in these boxes at any time!

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Our average weekly offerings need to be \$4,800 to meet our 2013 Budget. On September 8th our offerings were \$3,469 so we were short \$1,331! ☹ If you haven't already, fill out your 2013 Offering Form and support the work of St. George!

ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE New items purchased at the Archdiocesan Convention in Houston, TX – Postage Stamp Jewelry! Check it out in the Bookstore Case TODAY!

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil or their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday as normal.
TODAY	Special General Assembly
Mon-Thurs	Fr. Joe attending the Assembly of Bishops in Chicago (<i>see above</i>)
Wednesday	SOYO Wednesday 7-9pm
Thursday	Parish Council Dinner Meeting 6:15pm Any parishioner is welcome to come, observe, and also make comments at the appropriate time on the Agenda.
Saturday	Andoni Wedding 4pm No Great Vespers

Antiochian Day of Solidarity Scheduled for September 15th



Pastoral Letter

On the Occasion of the Antiochian Day of Solidarity Scheduled for September 15, 2013

In Support of Humanitarian and Relief Work

By the mercy of God John X Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

Giving is the Criterion of our Belonging to the Reign of God *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"* (Matt. 25: 40)

The Holy Antiochian Synod has set the 15th of September of this year as a day of solidarity for all local and international parishes in order to support the humanitarian and relief work, which the Patriarchate of Antioch and the All the East has undertaken in the collaboration of national, governmental, ecclesiastic, and civil entities. The amount of pain and suffering endured by our sons and brothers in Syria until today is beyond any description. Moreover, the available resources are limited and can only cover a small part of the basic and essential needs of life, such as food, water, clothing, medicine, medical treatment, and shelter.

We believe that God created us, gave us life and asked nothing in return for this precious gift. He was generous with us in a way that is proper to the Creator. He granted us the blessings which allow us to have a royal life in every sense. Yet we drifted away from the truth and willingly chose to go astray from his grace; thus, our lives were filled with pain, sickness, evil, and death.

God Himself did not remain distant from this new reality for He sent His only Son to live among us as one of us in order to return us to the right path again, enlighten our darkness, lead us to life, show us the Truth, teach us how to use our freedom, heal our wounds, give life to our souls, forgive our sins, and grant us His heavenly happiness.

He humbly shared human life with us; He accompanied the widow of Nain at the funeral of her only son and brought him to life; he searched for the bleeding woman and healed her soul and body; He taught His disciples to share their bread and fish with the people who marched after Him and how to feed them with their hands; He tested the faith of the Canaanite woman and granted her what she desired after

having strengthened her faith; He healed the centurion's servant; He did not arrive on time to the house of His sick friend Lazarus, but He brought him back to life and for his sisters Mary and Martha; He approached and touched the eyes of the blind man, the possessed, the leper, and the man with the withered hand, and dismissed them all healed both in soul and body.

He gave us the best of all commandments, a solution to all our suffering: to love God through loving our brother and neighbor. Humanity is subject to evil and miseries we bring onto ourselves, knowingly or out of ignorance, because of our egoism and our own interests, whether we are individuals, groups, or countries.

The Lord did not request anything for Himself. He did not ask us to honor Him, nor to express gratitude or acknowledgment. On the contrary He accepted suffering from our hands; and, from us, He heard curses, encountered blame and aggression, bore neglect and betrayal, and accepted flagellation, mockery, and crucifixion.

He firmly commanded us, to love our neighbor, for He made this love the criterion of our belonging to the Reign of heaven. He commanded that our worship be associated with serving our neighbor, and He made loving and helping the weak and the needy equal in dignity to serving Him. He placed us between two charges: on one hand the parable of the Samaritan enlightens our minds and stimulates our solidarity with our needy brothers, taking care of them and standing by their side; on the other hand the parable of the last judgment, which confronts us with determining our eternal life starting now, by choosing for instance to be deaf to the voice of the needy, to remain blind to their suffering, to keep our hands tied instead of reaching out to help our neighbors, to shut our hearts to the pains of our brothers, or distract our minds with other than helping others.

Today the perseverance of most of our children who are affected, in need, homeless, sick, wounded, unemployed, and facing adversity cannot continue without the support of all brothers, whether wealthy or not, and not only financially speaking, but also through the effective love given, and factually expressed in the consideration provided to he who lost a job, a home, a loved one, a provider, or others. God never stops stretching His hand towards us in our misery; He helps us, heals us and saves us instead. Ought we not stretch our hands towards our brothers in return?

Some are doing so daily on the ground. But today those who live geographically afar from this reality, their tangible help is needed, as is their participation through a donation graciously given to their Church, which would be sent to the Patriarchate to support the efforts it is undertaking in this field.

The Church today invites you, with all the love, zeal, and gratitude it has received, to honor your brother so that God honors you. The wounded heart calls your generous, loving and giving heart, wherever you are, it asks you to stretch the hand of brotherhood, support and solidarity. Grant graciously as God graciously granted you the countless generousities and the bounties beyond description. Seek to fulfill the needs of your people, and be their consolation. They are your fathers in the most precious of what you possess: faith. Give what is less in return: your contribution and generosity.

May God bless your deeds and multiply the fruits of your charities in His heavenly Reign. Amen.

John X Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

Issued from our Patriarchal Residence in Damascus Dated the 6th of August, 2013



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

September 15, 2013

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Members of Philanthropic Organizations, the Youth and Youth Workers, and the entire Orthodox Christian Family in North and Central America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America will convene for its fourth meeting on September 17 – 19, 2013. On this day, marked as “Assembly Sunday,” we ask all clergy and faithful throughout the lands of which the Assembly is composed to offer prayers for safe travel, fraternal dialogue, and furtherance of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. The Assembly represents the hopes, aspirations and vision for the future of Orthodoxy for all Orthodox Christian faithful in North and Central America.

Our Assembly of Bishops is one of twelve bishops’ assemblies that have been established in different geographical regions throughout the world. It was established in accordance with the decision of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, convened in Chambesy, Switzerland, in June of 2009, attended by representatives from all the universally-recognized autocephalous Orthodox churches.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we are asking the following prayer to be offered at a special litany:

O Lord of Heaven and Earth and of all who dwell therein, we beseech you on behalf of all the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America who are gathering this week in solemn convocation. Make their travel to and from their meeting safe and sound; direct their deliberations to the glory of Your Holy Name and the benefit of Your Holy Church; grant them a fraternal spirit founded in Your love and Your grace, that in all they do and say, they may bring all honor, praise and glory to Your Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

Chairman Assembly of Canonical Orthodox
Bishops of North and Central America