



WEEKLY BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024

عيد ميلاد ربنا وإلهنا
ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE
LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فَمَجِّدُوهُ!

The *Weekly Bulletin* is an official publication of
Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois.
A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس جاورجيوس الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

The Most Reverend Metropolitan **SABA, Primate**

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Right Reverend Archimandrite **Jeremy Davis, Archiepiscopal Vicar**
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

The Very Reverend Father **Fouad Saba, Pastor**

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:26

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Samar Rihani, *ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY*

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 am-5:00 pm

Saturday: By Appointment

Sunday: Closed

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE:

Saturdays: Great Vespers as announced

Sundays: 9:15am Orthros (Matins) and

10:20am Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy

Confession by Appointment

Welcome to Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church!

This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic (Universal), and Apostolic Church. The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition, which express the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in **The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!** Receiving Holy Communion in this Church is to adhere and commit to the One True Church, the Orthodox Church.

Visitor(s), please feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your name(s) to the Ushers and introduce yourself to Father Saba at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

Welcome! Ahlan wa Sahlan! أهلا وسهلا!

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 625/2024

Nativity 2024

Beloved in Christ,

I extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you in these blessed days of the Nativity, holding you in my prayers and asking our loving and incarnate Lord to lift you to His glory and to pour upon you His abundant earthly and heavenly blessings.

On this sacred day, heaven bent down to embrace the earth, lifting it to itself. Before Christ, humanity knew God as a mighty, powerful, awe-inspiring, and distant figure, one whose wrath they sought to avoid. Yet, in Christ, we came to see a completely different face of God. Through His incarnation, we encountered a God who is loving, embracing, near, and fully present—one who shares in all things with us, except for sin.

God did not merely come to us; He became one of us, like us. He shared in our suffering, and through this, He raised us to Himself. The birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh forever transformed humanity's understanding of God. But have we, as individuals and as Christian communities throughout history, always lived according to what He has revealed and given to us? Often, we have failed to reflect His loving and participatory nature. Yet history is also rich with luminous examples—countless saints and faithful who have reflected the face of Christ in this suffering world.

In this joyous season, let us ask ourselves: How can we be born anew in Christ? How can we contribute to comforting this broken and weary world in which we live? This holy feast challenges us to follow the example of our Savior by embracing those in pain, those who are afraid, and those weighed down by the burdens of life. It calls us to offer them a spark of hope—a light to lift them beyond their worries, their pain, and their fears.

On this feast, let us remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those in the East, who endure hardships and long to experience the joy of our Lord. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him within ourselves first so that we may see His presence in the faces of others.

I greet you with love and joy, saying: *Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.*

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

Archiepiscopal Vicar for
Toledo and the Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Nativity of Christ, 2024

The Magi offered to Him from what was His: myrrh and frankincense that He had brought into existence and created. . . . From the great treasury of all creation, Mary gave to Him everything she gave. She gave Him milk from what He made to exist. She gave Him food from what He had created. . . .

He, who is Lord of all, gives to us all, and He Who is Enricher of all, borrows from all. He is Giver of all, as one without needs. Yet He borrows back again like one deprived. He gave cattle and sheep as Creator, but, on the other hand, He sought sacrifices like one deprived. . . . From what is His, Martha [the sister of Lazarus] gave Him food to eat; she placed before Him the foods created by Him. All who gave to Him have vowed from what is His; from His treasury they have placed gifts on His table.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, *Hymns on the Nativity* 4

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a manger for our salvation!

As St. Ephraim reminds us in the hymn above, everything we can offer Christ has come to us from His hand, yet He humbles Himself to receive from us what He doesn't need, so that we can thereby show our love to Him and connect with Him. This reminds me of when I was a child and my parents would give me a little money for our school's Holiday Shoppe. I would buy things like a snow globe or a mug, wrap them, and give them to my parents on Christmas. They certainly didn't need these trinkets, and if they had, they could have bought them themselves. However, that wasn't the point—they were giving me the chance to do something for them, to express my love for them.

This Christmas, let us each find some special way to demonstrate our love for Christ. Let us go into the Holiday Shoppe of this world, which He has made for us, and pick out something to give Him from our hearts, something that is dear to His heart. First and foremost, let us give Him ourselves in faith, obedience, and devotion.

Wishing you all a joyous feast, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jeremy Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archimandrite Jeremy
Archiepiscopal Vicar

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس جاورجيوس الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba, Pastor

December 25, 2024

Dear Saint George Church Family,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! **المسيحُ وُلِد! فَمَجِّدُوهُ!**

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” - Luke 2:14

Christmas is often felt in a particular manner, perhaps differently as of late by different people; yet, it is always accompanied by the celebration of a new year. While we all know numbers and dates (i.e. January 1st) mean nothing compared to the grand scheme of things every year and throughout our lives, yet the sense of hope is very much alive and fills the holiday season with the sense a new potential, perhaps a restart and a recharge for many of us. Definitely a new year brings a new beginning.

Therefore, Christmas is a reminder of a new beginning, God’s new beginning for all of us. Christmas and New Year’s Day are mere days; yet, what they bring is real... God’s love and compassion... that despite what happened yesterday, there comes another opportunity to receive His love with faith/trust, to receive His Grace with gratitude. This is a blessing in itself. As the Apostle Paul teaches, “For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.” (II Corinthians 4:15)

Then the past is in service of the future, to learn from yesterday and utilize all which we know and have come to know to propel us, though carefully, yet, confidently, into tomorrow. The new year will carry its own merits, based on the past year, yet remaining independent of subjective cause so we appreciate all which the Lord grants in the day we live.

This past year surely has tried all of us, near and far, neighbor and stranger. The world seems to have fallen with haste into a darker, wider state which deserves our attention in order to focus on the light which still shines brightly. The devil has found his footing with all and continues to find his way most appealing, and this is, to consistently deceive, confuse, and divide. While the Lord teaches love of friend and foe, the devil attempts to unravel all which the Lord has wrapped with His warm Grace, but he can not do this without our permission and choice. The devil has no power over us unless we give it up to him. The Lord does not force us to love Him, yet, as a compelling Father to His children growing with pains, a prudent fashioner after His creation, a wise craftsman of all which He assembled, He reaches out to us to give us another chance, a new beginning and a restart, a mercy which endures forever to accompany us in this life, into this new year.

As the world descends into uncharted territory at the height of technological advances, increased polarization on all issues, the sheer destruction and genocide unfolding on our devices, the escalation of greed for power, the Lord also descends!

He descends to us.

He descends to teach.

He descends to save.

He descends to remind the world, ‘God is with us,’ hence, the name given to Christ, ‘Emmanuel.’ (Matthew 1:23)

He is with us. The question is, are we with Him? In this new beginning, let us leave the world to be with Him and His Church. Let us begin all things with Him, including 2025.

May the birth of the Lord warm your hearts and sustain you through these cold months and the coldness of this world and may the new year bring you showers of new blessings so you may serve the truth and spread it as the world desperately needs the joy of this truth.

Glory to the newborn babe, Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas!

Until next year, I remain

Your father in Christ,

Father Fouad Saba
Pastor

Psalm 73:25

“And they were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26)

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Glory to Thee, who has shown us the Light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.

O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (thrice)

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.

O continue Thy lovingkindness unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

المَجْدُ لَكَ يَا مُظْهِرَ النُّورِ، المَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي العَلَاءِ،
وعلى الأَرْضِ السَّلَامُ، وفي النَّاسِ المَسْرَّةُ
نُسَبِّحُكَ نُبَارِكُكَ، نَسْجُدُ لَكَ نُمَجِّدُكَ، نَشْكُرُكَ مِنْ
أَجْلِ عَظِيمِ جَلَالِ مَجْدِكَ

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ المَلِكُ، السَّمَاوِيُّ، الإِلَهُ، الأبُّ الضَّابِطُ
الْكُلِّ. أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ الإِبْنُ الوَحِيدُ، يَا يَسُوعَ المَسِيحُ،
وَيَا أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ القُدُّوسُ

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ الإِلَهُ، يَا حَمَلَ اللهِ يَا ابْنَ الأبِّ، يَا رَافِعَ
خَطِيئَةِ العَالَمِ ارْحَمْنَا، يَا رَافِعَ خَطَايَا العَالَمِ
تَقَبَّلْ تَضَرُّعَنَا أَيُّهَا الجَالِسُ عَنِ يَمِينِ الأبِّ
وَارْحَمْنَا

لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ قُدُّوسٌ، أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ الرَّبُّ
يَسُوعَ المَسِيحُ، فِي مَجْدِ اللهِ الأبِّ، آمِينَ.
فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ أَبَارِكُكَ، وَأَسْبِّحُ اسْمَكَ إِلَى الأَبَدِ،
وَالى أَبَدِ الأَبَدِ

أَهْلُنَا يَا رَبُّ أَنْ نُحْفَظَ فِي هَذَا اليَوْمِ بِغَيْرِ خَطِيئَةٍ.
مُبَارِكُكَ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا، وَمُسَبِّحُ وَمُمَجِّدُ
اسْمِكَ إِلَى الأَبَدِ، آمِينَ
لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا، كَمَا تَكُنْ عَلَيْنَا.

مُبَارِكُكَ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ عَلَّمَنِي حُقُوقَكَ. (ثلاثاً)
يَا رَبُّ مَلْجَأُ كُنْتُ لَنَا فِي جِيلٍ وَجِيلٍ، أَنَا قُلْتُ
يَا رَبُّ ارْحَمْنِي وَاشْفِ نَفْسِي لِأَنَّي قَدْ خَطِئْتُ
إِلَيْكَ

يَا رَبُّ إِلَيْكَ لَجَأْتُ فَعَلَّمَنِي أَنْ أَعْمَلَ رِضَاكَ،
لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ هُوَ إِلَهِي
لَأَنَّ مِنْ قِبَلِكَ عَيْنَ الحَيَاةِ، وَبِنُورِكَ نَعَايُنُ النُّورَ.
فَابْسُطْ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَعْرِفُونَكَ.

قُدُّوسُ اللهُ، قُدُّوسُ القَوِيُّ، قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ
ارْحَمْنَا. (ثلاثاً)

المَجْدُ لِلأَبِّ وَالإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ القُدُّوسِ.
الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ، آمِينَ.
قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ ارْحَمْنَا.

قُدُّوسُ اللهُ، قُدُّوسُ القَوِيُّ، قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ
ارْحَمْنَا

TODAY'S LITURGY INSERTS

FIRST ANTIPHON

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

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

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

أَعْتَرَفُ لَكَ يَا رَبُّ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي، وَأَحَدْتُ بِجَمِيعِ عَجَائِبِكَ. فِي مَجْلِسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ وَفِي مَجْمَعِهِمْ، عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَعْمَالُ الرَّبِّ.

اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مُخَلَّصُ خَلْصِنَا. مُدَبَّرَةٌ طَبَقًا لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الْإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظْمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.

اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مُخَلَّصُ خَلْصِنَا. الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالِابْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَالِي دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مُخَلَّصُ خَلْصِنَا.

SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَتَّقِي الرَّبَّ وَيَهْوَى وَصَايَاهُ جَدًّا. تَكُونُ ذُرِّيَّتُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَدِرَةً.

اللازمة: خَلْصِنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.

الْمَجْدُ وَالْغِنَى فِي بَيْتِهِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ

اللازمة: خَلْصِنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.

أَشْرَقَ النُّورُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لِلْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ، النُّورُ يُشْرِقُ فِي الظُّلَامِ لِلْأَبْرَارِ، لِأَنَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ وَالرَّحِيمُ وَالصِّدِّيقُ.

اللازمة: خَلْصِنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالِابْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَالِي دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

يَا كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ الْإِبْنَ الْوَحِيدِ...

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِرَبِّي: اجْلِسْ عَن يَمِينِي حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ
أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ. عَصَا قُوَّةٍ يُرْسِلُ لَكَ
الرَّبُّ مِنْ صِهْيَوْنَ. مَعَكَ الرَّئِاسَةُ فِي يَوْمِ قُوَّتِكَ،
فِي بَهَاءِ قَدِيسِيكَ.

TROPARION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

مِيلاذُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ
فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنْ
الْكَوْكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ
مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَنْتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

مِنَ الْبَطْنِ قَبْلَ كَوْكَبِ الصُّبْحِ وَلَدْتُكَ، حَلَفَ الرَّبُّ
وَلَنْ يَنْدَمَ، أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْكَاهِنُ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ عَلَى تَرْتِيبِ
مَلَكِيصَادَقَ. خَلَّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ،
لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.

TROPARION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

مِيلاذُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ
فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنْ
الْكَوْكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ
مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَنْتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

KONTAKION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 3)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

الْيَوْمَ الْبَتُولُ تَلِدُ الْفَائِقَ الْجَوْهَرَ، وَالْأَرْضُ تُقَرِّبُ
الْمَغَارَةَ لِمَنْ هُوَ غَيْرُ مُقْتَرَبٍ إِلَيْهِ. الْمَلَائِكَةُ مَعَ
الرُّعَاةِ يُمَجِّدُونَ، وَالْمَجُوسُ مَعَ الْكَوْكَبِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ
يَسِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ وُلِدَ مِنْ أَجْلِنَا صَبِيٌّ جَدِيدٌ، الْإِلَهُ
الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.



KONTAKION FOR THE MIRACULOUS WEeping ICON (TONE 8)

Only at Saint George Church in Cicero

To thee the champion leader, * I thy city offer thanks of victory. * O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror. * But as thou hast that power which is invincible, * From all dangers set me free and deliver me. That I may cry unto thee: * Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

إني أنا عبدك يا والدة الإله * اكتبُ لكِ راياتِ الغلبة يا جنديَّةَ مُحامية * وأقدمُ لكِ الشكرَ كمنقذةٍ من الشدائد * لكن بما أن لكِ العِزة التي لا تُحارب * اعتقيني من صنوفِ الشدائد * حتى أصرخَ إليكِ إفرحي يا عروساً لا عروسَ لها.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

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.

Dynamis!

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

أنتُم الذين بالمسيح اعتمدتم. المسيح قد لبستم. هَللويَا. (ثلاثا)

الجوقة: المجدُ للأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلَّ أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الداهرين. أمين.

المسيح قد لبستم. هَللويَا.

قُوَّة !

أنتُم الذين بالمسيح اعتمدتم. المسيح قد لبستم. هَللويَا

EPISTLE READERS

English

Arabic

Rammy Zanayed

Today

Mais Rihani

Jeanette Habash

Dec 29

Sandy Eseed

EPISTLE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of
Saint Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

لِيَسْجُدَ لَكَ كُلُّ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ وَيَرْتَلُوا لَكَ.

هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ يَا جَمِيعَ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ

الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ (4:4-7)

يا إخوة، لَمَّا حَانَ مِلْءُ الزَّمَانِ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ مَوْلُودًا مِنْ امْرَأَةٍ، مَوْلُودًا تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِيَقْتَدِيَ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِنَنَالَ التَّبَنِّي. وَبِمَا أَنَّكُمْ أَبْنَاءُ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ رُوحَ ابْنِهِ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ صَارِحًا: «يَا أَبَا الْأَبِّ». فَلَسْتَ بَعْدُ عَبْدًا بَلِ ابْنًا، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ ابْنًا فَأَنْتَ وَارِثٌ لِلَّهِ بِالْمَسِيحِ

GOSPEL FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

The reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Saint Matthew (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى

الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمِيمِ الطَّاهِرِ (2:1-12)

لَمَّا وُلِدَ يَسُوعُ فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ فِي أَيَّامِ هِيرُودُسَ الْمَلِكِ، إِذَا مَجُوسٌ قَدْ أَقْبَلُوا مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ قَائِلِينَ: أَيَّنَ الْمَوْلُودُ مَلِكُ الْيَهُودِ؟ فَإِنَّا رَأَيْنَا نَجْمَهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ، فَوَاقَيْنَا لِنَسْجُدَ لَهُ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ هِيرُودُسَ الْمَلِكُ اضْطَرَبَ هُوَ وَكُلُّ أُورَشَلِيمَ مَعَهُ. وَجَمَعَ كُلَّ رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَكُتَّابَةِ الشَّعْبِ، وَاسْتَخْبَرَهُمْ أَيَّنَ يُوَلَدُ الْمَسِيحِ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ "فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا قَدْ كُتِبَ بِالنَّبِيِّ: وَأَنْتِ يَا بَيْتَ لَحْمِ أَرْضِ يَهُودَا، لَسْتِ بِصُغْرَى فِي رُؤَسَاءِ يَهُودَا، لِأَنَّهُ مِنْكَ يَخْرُجُ الْمُدَبِّرُ الَّذِي يَزْعَى شَعْبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ." حِينَئِذٍ دَعَا هِيرُودُسَ الْمَجُوسَ سِرًّا وَتَحَقَّقَ مِنْهُمْ زَمَانَ النَّجْمِ الَّذِي ظَهَرَ. ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَهُمْ إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمِ، قَائِلًا: انْطَلِقُوا وَابْحَثُوا عَنِ الصَّبِيِّ بِتَدْقِيقٍ، وَمَتَّى وَجَدْتُمُوهُ، فَأَخْبِرُونِي لِكَيْ آتِيَ أَنَا أَيْضًا وَأَسْجُدَ لَهُ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا مِنَ الْمَلِكِ، ذَهَبُوا، فَإِذَا النَّجْمُ الَّذِي كَانُوا رَأَوْهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ يَتَقَدَّمُهُمْ، حَتَّى جَاءَ وَوَقَفَ فَوْقَ الْمَوْضِعِ الَّذِي كَانَ فِيهِ الصَّبِيُّ. فَلَمَّا رَأَوْا النَّجْمَ فَرَحُوا فَرَحًا عَظِيمًا جَدًّا، وَأَتَوْا إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، فَوَجَدُوا الصَّبِيَّ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ أُمِّهِ، فَخَرُّوا سَاجِدِينَ لَهُ، وَفَتَحُوا كُنُوزَهُمْ وَقَدَّمُوا لَهُ هَدَايَا مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَأُبَانٍ وَمُرٍّ. ثُمَّ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ فِي الْحُلْمِ أَنْ لَا يَرْجِعُوا إِلَى هِيرُودُسَ، فَانْصَرَفُوا فِي طَرِيقِ أُخْرَى إِلَى بِلَادِهِمْ

MAGNIFICATION HYMN OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 1)

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath laid Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

عَظِّمِي يَا نَفْسِي مَنْ هِيَ أَكْرَمُ قَدْرًا، وَأَرْفَعُ مَجْدًا مِنَ
الْأَجْنَادِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

إِنِّي أَشَاهِدُ سِرًّا عَجِيبًا مُسْتَعْرَبًا، الْمَغَارَةَ سَمَاءً
وَالْبَتُولَ عَرْشًا شَارُوبِيمِيًّا، وَالْمِنْدُودَ مَحَلًّا شَرِيفًا،
الَّذِي أَتَّكَأُ فِيهِ الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، غَيْرُ الْمَوْسُوعِ فِي مَكَانٍ،
فَلْنُسَبِّحْهُ مُعْظَمِينَ.

COMMUNION HYMN OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 8)

The Lord hath sent redemption to His people.
Alleluia.

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلَ الرَّبُّ فِدَاءً لِشَعْبِهِ. هَلِّلُويَا.

INSTEAD OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT” SING TROPARION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

مِيلَادُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا قَدْ أَطْعَمَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ
فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنْ
الْكَوَكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ
مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

THE SYNAXARION

On December 25th in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*The Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin;
what greater marvel hath appeared in creation?*

On the twenty-fifth Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.

*On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi:
Worshipping Thee, O Word, this cohort, come from the nations,
Showeth the worship that Thou shalt receive from the nations.*

On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:

Shepherds their own flock do now abandon, and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind.

Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Bread Offered By:

Today – Majdi and Arwa
Rayahin and Family



Dec 29 – Nabeel and Bulin Eseed and Family
– Azzam and Norma Barhoumeh and Family
– Elias and Raida Abuizzam and Family

Jan 5 – The Zayed Family
– Salim and Rania Najjar and Family

Jan 12 – Dina Saba and children and their Families
– Taoufik and Diala Moaqad and Family
– Nuha Lussi and Family

Jan 19 – The Sousan Family

Jan 26 – Dr. Milad and Mai Saad and Family



SCAN ME

Coffee Hour Sponsors:



Dec 29 – Naheel, Norma, and Mina Rantisi

Jan 5 – Salim and Rania Najjar and Family

Jan 12 – Nuha Lussi and Family

Jan 19 – *OPEN*

Jan 26 – *OPEN*



SCAN ME

CONDOLENCES

The clergy and parishioners of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Cicero offer their sincerest condolences to:

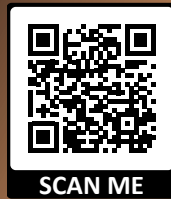
Majdi and Arwa Rayahin on the falling asleep of Arwa's sister, †**ABLA HADDAD RIHANI**, in Jordan, this past week.

Memory Eternal!

YAF BREAKFAST OR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS

↳ Dec 29 – ANONYMOUS

↳ Jan 5 – *OPEN*



SCAN ME

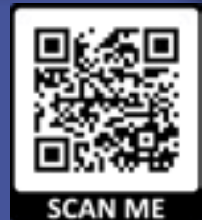
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SCAN ME



Are you offering **CHURCH BREAD** and need **NAMES REMEMBERED** in the Liturgy?
Sign-Up online with the names by **TUESDAY** of that week
www.StGeorgeChi.org/holy-bread or scan QR-Code



SCAN ME

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER IS THE ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS MONTH

Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Hours for the Feast of the Nativity 10:00 am Pre-Communion Prayers 4:45 pm Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity 5:00 pm
Wed, Dec 25	OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
Fri, Dec 27	Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Christmas Gathering (<i>see pg. 22</i>) 7:00 pm
Sat, Dec 28	Great Vespers Service 5:00 pm
Sun, Dec 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Communion Prayers 9:00 am Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Coffee Hour After Liturgy Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Breakfast and Spiritual Discussion After Liturgy Antiochian Women (AW) Spiritual Committee Meeting 12:30 pm
Mon, Dec 30	Teen SOYO Christmas Retreat (<i>see pg. 20</i>) 9:00 am
Tue, Dec 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Communion Prayers 6:45 pm Evening Divine Liturgy for Feast of Circumcision of the Lord and Feast of Saint Basil 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Family Celebration hosted by the Antiochian Family Ministry (AFM) (<i>see pg. 37</i>) After Liturgy
Wed, Jan 1	OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY
Fri, Jan 3	Golf Outing Committee Zoom Meeting 6:00 pm
Sat, Jan 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Vespers Service 5:00 pm Antiochian Women (AW) Epiphany Dinner (<i>see pg. 25</i>) 6:30 pm
Sun, Jan 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Communion Prayers 9:00 am Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Sunday School Classes After Communion God's Little Lights Ministry (3- and 4-year-olds) After Communion Great Blessing of the Waters After Liturgy Coffee Hour After Liturgy Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Coffee and Fellowship After Liturgy
Mon, Jan 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC2025 Civic and Media Protocol Committee Meeting 9:00 am AC2025 "The Five" Meeting 6:00 pm
Wed, Jan 8	Sunday School Teachers' Zoom Training 8:00 pm
Thu, Jan 9	Parish Council Officers' Zoom Meeting 6:00 pm

CHURCHINGS

Today EMILIANA JOY, daughter of Murhaf and Lana Kuaidi.

MEMORIALS

Dec 29 40-Day Memorial Service for †AIDA ABUIZZAM, offered by Elias and Raida Abuizzam and family.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

to

**Sanaa Jdaidany and The Beautification
Committee**

for Decorating the Christmas Tree
and to

Omar and Lillian Rihani and Family

for sponsoring the Poinsettias
and to

Fares Bannourah and the Property Management Committee

for helping to prepare the building for the season.

May God Grant them Many Years!



*Thank
you*



A SPECIAL THANK YOU to

**Dr. JOHNNY and Dr. VERA Kuttab and Family
and**

TEMPERATURE ONE HEATING AND COOLING

for sponsoring the 2025
Church Calendar.

**May God Grant them
Many Years!**





Teen SOYO

Offers a most sincere

Thank You

to all who participated in the
2024 Christmas Card Fundraiser!

The following names were received after the Christmas Card went to print and, thus, unfortunately missing from the printed Christmas Card:

✦ *For the Good Health of...*

Wail Fakhoury and Family

Hon. and Mrs. William J. Haddad

Saba and Nabila Isa and Family

✦ *In Memory of...*

Raja, Carol, and Roger Moukheiber



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس جارجيوس الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba, Pastor

December 17, 2024

Dear Members of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church,

Christ in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

A blessed Nativity Season to you and your families! This is to inform you the 2025 Annual General Assembly Meeting for the voting membership of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda is enclosed on the reverse side of this letter.

To be recognized as a voting member of Saint George Church, a parishioner must be at least eighteen years of age and have fulfilled both the necessary spiritual obligations (as determined by the Pastor) and the financial obligations (as determined by the Financial Secretary), which require a minimum contribution of \$600 per married couple or \$300 per individual received between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Each married couple attending the meeting will be given two ballots — one for each spouse in attendance — while individual members, over the age of 18, who have met the requirements, will each receive one ballot from the Financial Secretary at the meeting. Only those present at the meeting may vote; no proxy votes are permitted. If you have not already met your financial obligation, please do so before December 31, 2024. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please see the Pastor. Should you have any further questions regarding these requirements, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

The goal of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church is to have all eligible members vote.

At this General Assembly, elections will be held for four (4) seats for a three-year term on the Parish Council. A Nominating Committee has been appointed to compile a list of qualified candidates. The members of the committee are Fr. Fouad Saba, Fr. Gabriel Coronel, Dn. George Nassief, Mr. Elias Akkari, and Mr. Steve Saba. If you or someone you know is interested in running for the Parish Council and is willing to make the commitment required to fulfill this important obligation, please contact the Nominating Committee.

It is important to note that pursuant to the Saint George Church Constitution, no nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Annual General Assembly Meeting. All candidates' names must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in order for the candidate's name to be included on the Ballot. There can be no exception to this rule.

During this General Assembly Meeting, all members will also receive a full 2024 Financial Report, the proposed 2025 Annual Budget, and reports from the various organizations and hear about all current plans for the coming year. 2024 was an extremely active year in the life of Saint George Church and your attendance will add greatly to the discussion.

The Church is our spiritual home. Your involvement in the affairs of your Church is very important. May God bless you all as we prepare for the birth of the Savior!

Yours in Christ,

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba
Pastor

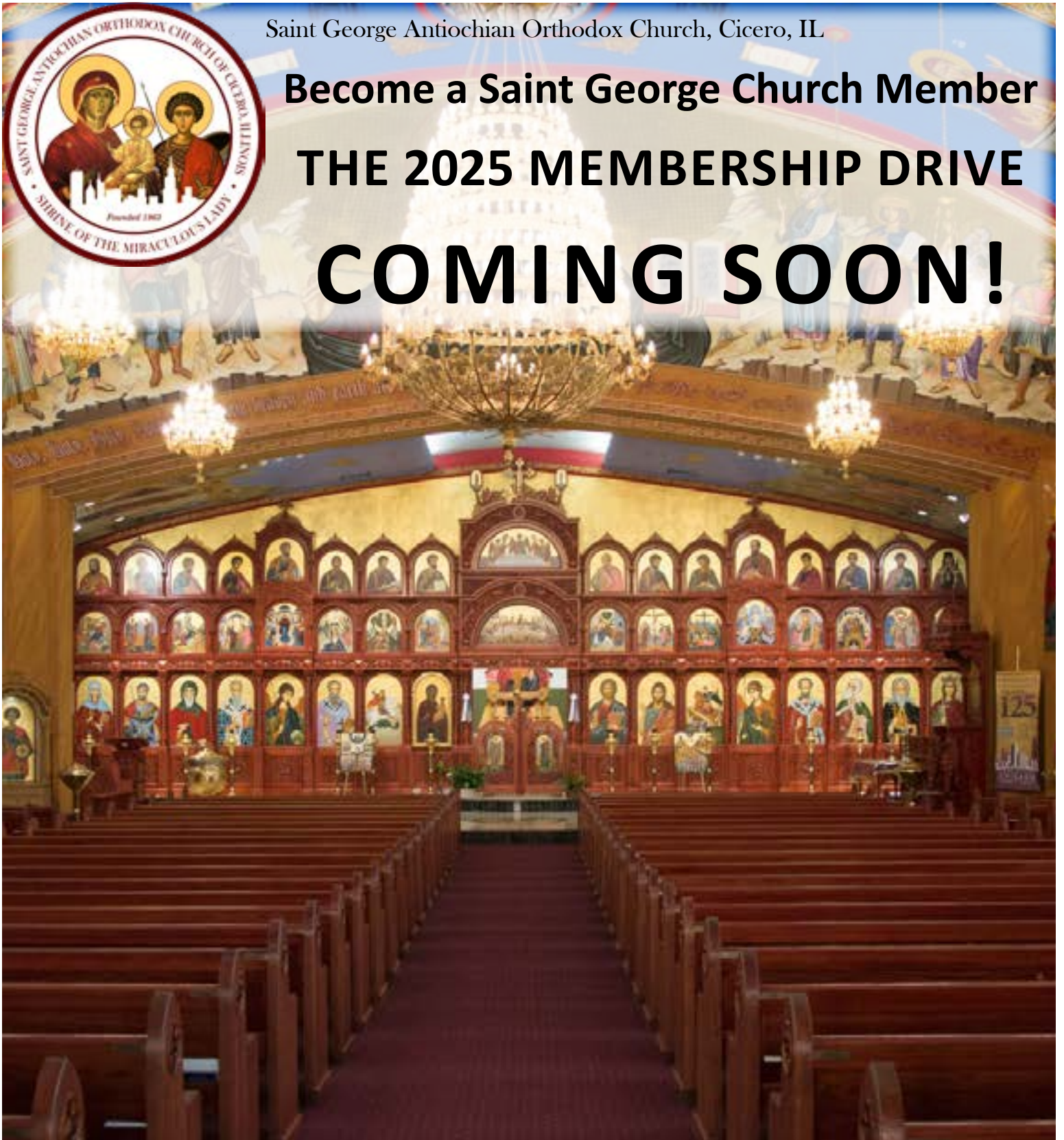
Elias Akkari

Elias Akkari
Chairman, Parish Council

"And they were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Become a Saint George Church Member
THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
COMING SOON!



“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

– Joshua 4:15



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Curriculum Update

Nativity of the Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

Sunday School took a little detour from our curriculum to learn that the Nativity of the Lord is the fulfillment of many prophecies from the Old Testament and the beginning of salvation. A prophet is someone chosen by God to share His message. Our salvation is something God has been planning for a very long time. Christmas, and what follows, lies deep in the Old Testament. The following are three of the Old Testament prophets and what they foretold about the Messiah, which means the anointed one.

Isaiah was one of God's prophets for about 60 years. He is called The Messianic Prophet because he foretold many things about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, the Christ. God sent Isaiah to give the people these hints and clues so they would recognize Jesus when He came to earth. Read: Isaiah 7:14, 9:7, 53, 35:5-6

Jeremiah lived in and around Jerusalem where he prophesied for about 40 years until God destroyed the nation of Israel because of their wickedness. He is sometimes called the Weeping Prophet because of his sorrow over the sins of the people. Read: Jeremiah 23:5-6, 31:31

Micah, lived in the country unlike Jeremiah and Isaiah. He prophesied of the birthplace of Christ: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." (Micah 5:2)



Calendar UPCOMING EVENTS

No Sunday School Classes	Sun Dec 29
Sunday School Classes Resume	Sun Jan 5
AV CAMP REGISTRATION @ 4:00 PM	SUN JAN 5
Sunday School Teachers' Zoom Training	Wed Jan 8

CREATING MEMORIES

smile!



Meet the Staff

TANYA HINNAWI

OCCUPATION: Service Manager for BMO

GRADE YOU TEACH: Snack Coordinator

NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING SS: 2 years

HOBBIES: Reading.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."...John 3:16*



MARWA BECHARA

Meet the Staff

OCCUPATION: Stay-at-Home Mom

GRADE YOU TEACH: 2nd Vice Principal and Extracurricular Coordinator

NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING SS: 3 years

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TEACH SS: Teaching children about God's love for them.

HOBBIES: Reading and Gardening.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: *"Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord."...Saint John Chrysostom*





Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Teen SOYO

CHRISTMAS RETREAT



MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

CHECK-IN 9:00 AM 🍷 **CHECK-OUT 6:00 PM**

- PRAYERS
- SERVICE PROJECT
- DISCUSSION/LESSON
- NAVY PIER/LIGHT UP THE LAKE
- LUNCH
- GROUP ACTIVITY

**Bring spending
money**

RSVP REQUIRED by
Friday, December 27th



**ONLY 38 Spots
Available!**

All Teens (ages 13-18) Welcome!

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



Teen SOYO

with **GLORY Club** and **JOY Club**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

6:45 PM - 9:00 PM



740 WILEY FARM COURT, SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173

Join **TEEN SOYO, JOY CLUB,** and **GLORY CLUB**
for an evening of helping others in need!
ALL 5 YEARS AND OLDER ARE WELCOME!

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

~ Proverbs 11:25

PLEASE SCAN QR-CODE OR SIGN-UP AT
WWW.FMSC.ORG/JOIN-GROUP?JOINCODE=4L921K





Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Young Adult Fellowship (YAF)

Christmas Gathering

Fri, Dec 27

7:00PM

DINNER INCLUDED



**Bring White
Elephant gift
(\$20 maximum)**

**at the home of
President
Nina Ghanayem**

RSVP by
Sun | Dec 22



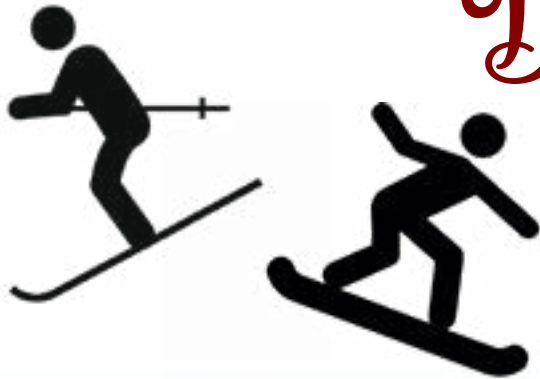
***INVITING ALL
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES,
AND COLLEGE STUDENTS (AGES 18+)***



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Young Adult Fellowship (YAF)

Skiing/Snowboarding Day Trip



Sat, Jan 18
11:00 AM

ALPINE VALLEY RESORT • ELKHORN, WI

\$130/person

INCLUDES LIFT TICKETS,
EQUIPMENT RENTAL,
HELMET, DINNER

RSVP BY
WED | JAN 1



SCAN ME

INVITING ALL
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES,
AND COLLEGE STUDENTS (AGES 18+)

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



GLORY CLUB

G.O.D'S L.O.VING O.BEDIENT R.ESPECTFUL Y.OUTH

LAUNCH EVENT!

SAT | FEB 1 @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

**EVENING PRAYERS,
DINNER, AND PROGRAM**

EVENT ADMISSION

EACH CHILD BRING A

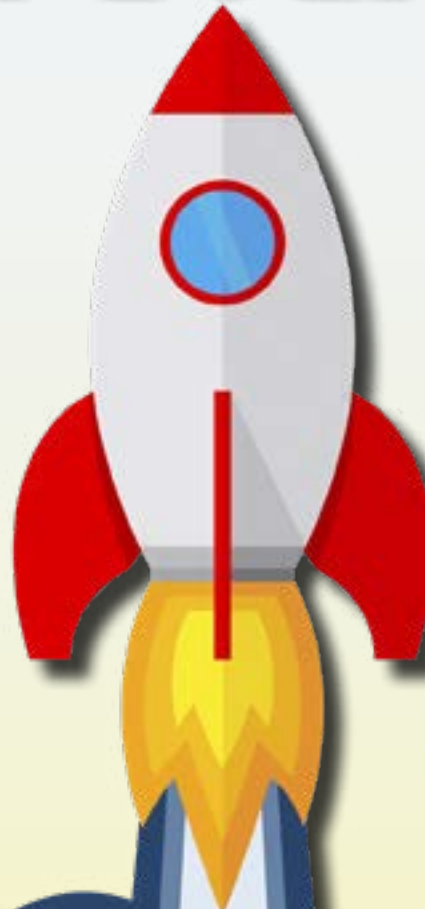
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TO DONATE TO THE HOMELESS

RSVP BY
SAT, JAN 25

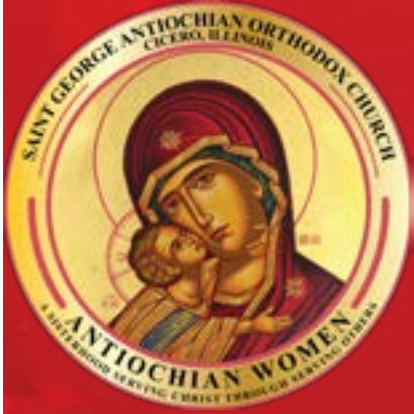


PARENTS ENCOURAGED
TO STAY, DINNER WILL BE
PROVIDED SEPARATELY.



**INVITING
ALL KIDS (AGES 5-8)**
must be 5 years old by February 1, 2025

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

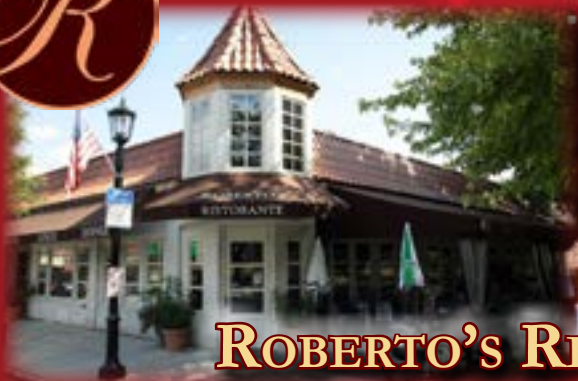


ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

EPIPHANY DINNER

DINNER
AND
GAMES

Saturday, January 4, 2025
6:00 PM



ROBERTO'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA
483 SPRING RD, ELMHURST, IL 60126



\$55 PER PERSON



SCAN ME

- *Space is Limited*
- *Register by Sunday, December 29th*

All Women 18+ Welcome!

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Antiochian Men (A-MEN) Shawerma and Cards Night



**Saturday
January 18, 2025
5:00 PM**

**IN THE
CHURCH
HALL**

**VESPERS
DINNER
GAMES**



**\$25/
GENTLEMAN**

**RSVP by
Wednesday
January 15**



ALL Gentlemen 18+ Invited

Couples' Retreat

Saturday, January 25 | 5:00 pm

Vespers ~ Dinner with Wine ~ Retreat

\$50/Couple



Inviting Courting, Engaged,
and all Married Couples!



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



We
help!

Over the past **3** years,
**THE ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS –
CICERO CHAPTER**

has provided over **\$110,000** in
support of our ministries –
*The Order Grant, Education Scholarship
and Camp Scholarship.*

We *helped families* with bills, car
repairs, medical bills, rent and other living
expenses totaling **\$73,859!**

We supported *thirty* campers with
scholarships totaling **\$25,602!**

We awarded *Educational
Scholarships* totaling **\$9,481!**

Providing assistance to our community
could not happen without **YOUR**
generous donations!

To donate please use:



Faith

Love

Gratitude

Leadership

Outreach

Our Guiding Principle...

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches,
puff him up; and let no man's low
condition or poverty abase him. For
the chief points are faith towards God,
hope towards Christ, the enjoyment
of those good things for which we
look, and love towards God and our
neighbor.

– Saint Ignatius of Antioch



The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

December 15, 2024

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox Faith, we are called to focus on our words, deeds, and thoughts. On behalf of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, we thank you for your selfless act in support of the Order's ministry. Your unconditional gift affects the lives of countless people within our Orthodox Faith, our Antiochian Orthodox community and beyond. Your gift creates a life-changing ripple effect that is immeasurable in its impact on individuals and families you will never come to know personally. Thank you and God bless you.

For almost 50 years, you, and those before you made a conscious decision to put the needs of others before your own. Your gift is not simply a donation deposited and forgotten. It is so much more than a check written or a charge on your credit card. It is an act of Faith in support of a life-changing ministry. Your gift ...

- Provides reassurance to our clergy during their golden years and expresses gratitude toward our beloved them for their years as our guide, comforter and welcomed friend during our times of sorrow, uncertainty and joy through the funding of the **Retired Clergy Fund**.
- Helps plant seeds of Orthodoxy, the True Faith, throughout North America through the support of the **Department of Missions and Evangelism**.
- Helps provide loving care, reassurance and comfort to children without families and parents. Letting those children know that someone they may never come to know, cares enough to help provide the basic needs we may take for granted in our everyday lives through support of organizations like **Project Mexico**.
- Educates our children in the Faith and strengthens their resolve in their Faith as they prepare themselves to become the future leaders of our parishes and Archdiocese through **Youth Ministry, Summer Camp Scholarships, SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training, Christian Education and College Conference**.
- Does so much more than provide summer camp scholarships for children that would otherwise not be able to attend camp due to financial reasons. It also provides knowledge, relationships and memories created in God-filled environments that are the essential tools to help our children overcome the challenges and deceptions in this world that will test their Orthodox Christian beliefs.

Even more, through the generosity of our many Governing Council volunteers who give of their time, talents, and treasure, we are thankful to share that over **91%** of total annual revenue reaches the departments, projects and grant requests the Order of Saint Ignatius supports. This is only possible through the generosity of the Order's Governing Council members who cover all their own travel, lodging and various event sponsorships personally.

So, as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

In His service,

Roger J. David
North American Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Gratitude

The Order of St. Ignatius Supports

The Retired Clergy Allowance

... you help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. You express your gratitude to your beloved priest, faithful counselor and comforting friend who's been with you during your times of need, joy and sorrow.

We Need Your Help To Do More ...

We are thankful for the unconditional gifts from the members of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch for over 48 years. Since the **Order's inception in 1976**, Order members have provided almost \$50 million in annual and one-time gifts to support the essential departments, projects and charitable gifts of the Antiochian Archdiocese. We want to do more. As our Archdiocese has grown exponentially since 1976, so have the needs of the Archdiocese and its people. We need your help to increase the Order's current \$270,000 annual contribution toward The Retired Clergy Allowance for our retired clergy and their wives. It is essential to expand our programs for the youth to strengthen their Faith in this secular world. Our future youth programs will require more than the current estimated \$380,000 annual budgeted amount. These are only two of the major annual needs of the Archdiocese that depend on your support as a member of the Order. See how you may help us do more.

\$500 or \$1,000 in 2024 just
Doesn't Go As Far As It Did in 1976

It takes
\$1,636 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$500 in 1976

It takes
\$3,271 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$1,000 in 1976

NOTE: Calculations are based on a 2.5% inflation rate over a 48 year period and are for illustrative purposes only.



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Annual Gift Increase

Increase your gift of
\$500/yr. or \$41.67/mth
as a Knight or Dame
to
\$1,000/yr. or \$83.33/mth
as a Knight or Dame Commander

Life & Metropolitan Upgrade

The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program

You can upgrade to Life Member or
Metropolitan Member for a gift of
\$10,000 or \$20,000
paid over a 2-year or 3-year period.
See reverse side for details and requirements

How You Can Support the Ministry

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



We are not merely to call ourselves Christians;
we are asked to be Christians through our deeds.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Your Unconditional Gift Changes People's Lives

Knight & Dame

- \$500 Annually
- \$41.67 Monthly
- \$1.37 Daily

Junior Knight & Dame

Ages 18-26 Only

- \$300 Annually
- \$25 Monthly
- \$0.82 Daily
- At age 27, converts to Knight or Dame at \$500 Annually

Knight Commander Dame Commander

- \$1,000 Annually
- \$83.33 Monthly
- \$2.73 Daily

Life

- \$15,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$5,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Life Upgrade*

Metropolitan

- \$30,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$10,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Metropolitan Upgrade**

Life and Metropolitan gifts are invested in an endowment and only the earnings are spent each year making it a gift that will live on into perpetuity.

***Life Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 5 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Life Member for \$10,000 paid over a two-year period.

****Metropolitan Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for at least 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Knight/Dame Commander, who has been a member for at least 5 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Metropolitan level for \$20,000 paid over a three-year period. Life members who have fulfilled their initial Life member gift may upgrade to the Metropolitan level for \$10,000 paid over a 2-year period.



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch



Antiochian
Village

Pennsylvania



Sessions SELL OUT in 15 MINUTES!



Registration
Opens
Sun | Jan 5



Register AT 4:00PM CST
ON Sunday, January 5th
to secure your spot at the
**Antiochian Village Summer
Camp in Pennsylvania!**

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME



Camp St. George
I-OWA

June 29-July 5, 2025

Summer
Camp



Registration Opens
Sunday,
February 2!



SCAN ME

NO CAMPER LEFT BEHIND!



In 2024,
26 CAMPERS
from Saint George Church
attended Camp!

Antiochian Village PA = 17
Camp St. George IA = 9

SCHOLARSHIPS

available from
The Order of Saint Ignatius
Cicero Chapter and National!

No Camper Left Behind

ALL Campers in need of financial
assistance will be able to attend!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

...coming in Spring 2025

2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

YOU BELONG



ON THE
**TREE OF
LIFE**



"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Matthew 6:21

لَأَنَّهُ حَيْثُ يَكُونُ كَنْزُكُمْ هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ قَلْبُكُمْ أَيْضًا. (متى 6:21)

Stewardship is an annual and prayerful commitment to the Church. The following list, in alphabetical order, are those individuals or households who have completed their 2024 Membership Registration and Commitment to Saint George Church, Cicero, as of November 26, 2024. This list does not reflect all who are giving or eligible to be a voting member.

This is an ongoing campaign, if you would still like to commit for the 2024 year, kindly complete your Membership registration online by Sunday, December 22, 2024. Re-enrollment and new member registration for 2025 will be coming out following the Christmas Season. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Membership Committee via email Membership@StGeorgeChi.org.

Fr. Fouad and Kh. Diana Saba	Fares Bannourah	Majed and Dima Dalloul
Fr. Gabriel and Kh. Amelia Coronel	Issa and Hanadi Bannourah	Hazem Dawani
Dn. George Nassief	Jack and Sawsan Baqleh	Christopher and Jessica Dedow
Gloria Abboud	Steven and Julia Baqleh	Kamel and Afaf Egal
Michael and Jennifer Abdo	Ibrahim and Norma Barbari	Sali Esber
Roger and Aline Abdo	Khalil and Mary Barbari	Maher and Jennifer Eseed
Matthew and Georgina Ablan	Michael and Sandra Barbari	Nabeel and Bulin Eseed
Elias and Raida Abuelizam	Nick and Brittany Barbari	Najeeb and Sandy Eseed
Elias and Maggie Akkari	Azzam and Norma Barhoumeh	Nicola and Angela Eseed
Yaacoub and Antoinette Akkari	Edward and Noura Barhoumeh	Dr. Anton and Lena Fakhouri
Dr. George and Samar Alamir	George and Hiba Barhoumeh	Gus Fakhouri
Adel and Sheilia Alfakhori	Joseph and Rosel Barhoumeh	Hani and Randa Fakhouri
Suleiman and Caroline Alhabash	Dr. Carlos and Marwa Bechara	Mary Fakhouri
William Allan	Jalal and Manal Bitar	Robby Fakhouri
Sdn. Raymond and Dr. Rachel Antypas	Omar and Enas Bitar	Suhail and Jomana Fakhouri
Johnny and Christina Araj	Samir and Samar Bitar	Suleiman and Ahlam Fakhouri
Dr. Lillian Armoush	Mazen and Victorita Bittar	Dr. Nader and Cindy Fakhoury
Maher and Abeer Asfour	Drs. Dany and Manal Ibrahim Boulos	Salvador and Rema Farias
Basri and Sibel Aygul	Ehab and Faten Butros	Mike and Dena Fasheh
Nuha Ayoub	Sdn. Steven and Linda Bynum	George Fashho
Hussam and Dr. Rand Bachour	Alfonso Campos	Patrick Fay
Dr. Marwan and Sausan Baghdad	George and Donna Conopeotis	Kathy Faycurry

Shehada and Rana Fino	Ibrahim and Claudette Kuttab	Fadi and Diana Rihani
Richard and Christina Georgios	Drs. Johnny and Vera Kuttab	Hani and Samar Rihani
Nina Ghanayem	Michael and Sue Lagattolla	Hazem and Nareman Rihani
Julio and Nyssa Gomez	Jeffrey and Lamia Landers	Joseph and Mais Rihani
Ibrahim and Shereen Habash	Joseph and Diana Layous	Kamal and Etihad Rihani
Jeanette Habash	Trevor and Jaime Lenhart	Omar and Lillian Rihani
Mark Habash	Dennis and Constance Luisi	Sdn. Mazen and Souzan Rihani
Nicola and Mary Habash	Nuha Lussi	James and Anoulla Ryan
Darlene Haddad	Elias and Elaine Makdah	Bechara and Nengagran Saad
Yasmin Haddad	Anthony and Gina Massih	Bassam and Alice Saba
Sophia Hani	Johnny and Renata Massih	Michael and Mariam Saba
Hanna and Tanya Hinnawi	Ryan McMahan	Mousa and Amal Saba
Rosalie Hoffman	Dimitrios and Betty Mestousis	Sameer and Mariana Saba
Joseph and Dr. Nicole Homsy	Akhilesh and Jessica Mishra	Steve and Reem Saba
Mary Homsy	Anees Mitri	Peter and Susan Sakleh
Nathaniel Humphrey	Taoufik and Diala Moaqad	Norma Samaan
Tony and Muna Husary	Anthony Montesinos	Adib and Evelyn Shaheen
Victor and Jackie Imreibe	Michael and Diane Moukheiber	Johny and Rasha Sisan
Sami and Ruba Imsaih	Elias Moussi	Marc and Maha Swanson
Abdo and Suhaila Imseeh	Dr. Daniel and Amanda Mseih	Ryan and Natalie Sweiss
Ala and Faten Imseeh	Fady Mourice and Jenna Mseih	George Talhami
Francis and Amal Imseih	Mourice and Hanan Mseih	Dr. Peter and Rosana Thompson
Sami and Amanda Imseih	Sami and Abby Mseih	John Ulrey
Ghassan and Nevin Iqal	Albeir and Roula Mufarreh	Hayze and Tracy Webster
Odeh and Raja Iqal	Michael and Ida Mufarreh	Leonard and Nadine Youel
Crystal Isaac	Nuha Mufarreh	Abeer Zanayed
Peter and Amani Isaid	Salim and Rania Najjar	Jerry and Emily Zanayed
Samaan and Myra Issa	Dr. Sammy and Karen Nawas	Mazen and Juwana Zanayed
Dana Jabaji	Yousef and Rima Nimry	Rammy Zanayed
Marwan and Anna Jamalieh	Reem Pashan	Ronnie Zanayed
Daoud and Hania Kahoush	Victor and Marlene Perez	Samer and Joanna Zanayed
Jeries and Kathy Kahoush	Mark and Mary Petrelli	Bryan and Dena Zarou
Anthony and Dr. Huda Kandah	Rajaei and Amber Qubrosi	Hanna and Tamara Zayed
Dr. Walid and Randa Kandah	Suhail and Dima Qumri	Sdn. Nasser and Alice Zayed
Chadi and Olga Karam	Khader and Fadwa Rantisi	Nick Zayed
Sam and Tammi Karam	Mina Rantisi	Samir and Lena Zayed
David and Abeer Kari	Naheel Rantisi	Sumayya Zayed
Sdn. Mazen and Amal Khalifeh	Abraham and Lubna Rayan	Yacoub and Rozette Zayed
Sonhero and Amanda Khoshaba	Fairouz Rayan	Yousef and Mary Zayed
Fadel Khoury	Mansour and Wafa Rayan	Joe and Laureen
Joanna Khoury	Michael and Mariana Rayan	Zureikat
Kareem and Dina Khoury	John and Lama Rayyan	
Nancy Khoury	Amir Rihani	





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ANTIOCHIAN FAMILY MINISTRY
A MINISTRY OF SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, CICERO, IL

New Year's Eve Family Celebration!

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

6:45 PM – Pre-Communion Prayers

7:00 PM – Evening Divine Liturgy

FOLLOWED BY *Dinner, Music, and Raffle*

Countdowns at 10:00 PM and Midnight

\$400/table of 8 seats including children over 3 yrs.

For extra seats or individual tickets, please contact:

Dr. Daniel and Amanda Mseih at (708) 745-1687 or amandamseih@gmail.com

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

RSVP by Sun | Dec 22

Count of all Adults and Children

NO REFUNDS AFTER DEC 22



SCAN ME

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



Celebrate the Epiphany (Baptism) of

THE LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*with your
Saint George Church Family!*

احتفالات عيد الغطاس

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

**PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS | 9:00 AM • ORTHROS/MATINS | 9:15 AM
GREAT DOXOLOGY AND DIVINE LITURGY | 10:20 AM
FOLLOWED BY THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS**

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Traditionally, at the feast of the Lord's Epiphany (Baptism) on January 6th, the Great Blessing of the waters takes place and then is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to the homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way.

As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.





SEASON OF EPIPHANY

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HOME BLESSINGS

Please contact the Church Office at (708) 656-2927 or Office@StGeorgeChi.org to schedule your Home Blessing:

The following should be prepared for the Home Blessing:

- All members of family must be present
- Bible
- Icon
- Lit Candle
- Burning Incense (Optional)
- Small Table (or dining room table)



The visit by Father Saba or Father Gabriel should be approximately **45 minutes**. Several visits will be scheduled on a given day in order to reach and bless all families and homes this season.

Once the Home Blessing Season is mostly over, Father Saba and Father Gabriel will continue regular Pastoral Visits, during which Father Saba or Father Gabriel will spend ample time with each family.





“THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

December 25th – January 5th

~ Original Meaning ~

True Love = God

Me = every baptized person

Partridge = Jesus Christ, who, like a bird, will protect God’s defenseless children.

Pear Tree = the Cross, which was made from a tree.

2 Turtle Doves = the Old and New Testaments; also, two turtle doves were sacrificed when Jesus was first brought to the temple.

3 French Hens = faith, hope, and charity (sacrificial giving); also, gold, frankincense, and myrrh from the Wise Men.

4 Calling Birds = the four Gospels and/or the four Evangelists.

5 Golden Rings = the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch) which gives the history of man’s fall from grace.

6 Geese a-Laying = the six days of creation.

7 Swans a-Swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8); also, the seven sacraments.

8 Maids a-Milking = the eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10); also, milking symbolizes Christ’s love for us.

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

10 Lords a-Leaping = the Ten Commandments.

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful Apostles.

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of the Apostles Creed; also, the twelve Apostles preaching.