

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
6	Eisah Bahou	12
7	Marie Berbari	26
7	Elias Fahel	21
8	Hind Halabi	4
8	Eid Qaqish	49
8	Afa Saad	28
9	Hanna Bachir	22
12	Jeannette Hajjar	10

- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Nassar, George, Nina, Sonia, George, Beshara, Irene, Nadia, Mona, Christine, Toni, George and Helena.
- **Memorial:** if you are planning on doing a memorial for a loved one and you are expecting more than 15-20 people, please consider doing it on a Saturday due to the limited **permitted numbers for Sunday**. Thank you.
- **Holy Bread** is offered in loving memory of **Andriani Lordos** by her Goddaughter Ola Zabana and her family. May her memory be eternal.

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **December 12:** For the good health of Rami Haddad from William & Lucy Besharat.
For the good health of Konstantin and family
- **December 19:** For the good health of Rami Haddad from William & Lucy Besharat.
- **December 25:** In loving memory of Munir Muasher from Shadia Muasher and family.
- **December 26:** For the good health of Rami Haddad from William & Lucy Besharat.

CHURCH OFFICE

- Anyone wishing to church a child, removal of crowns, have a memorial service, or would like Fr. George to give communion or visit their loved sick ones, should contact the church office ahead of time (905) 731-7210. **In case of emergency, call Fr. Georges Mokbel (416) 725-2888.**

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

- **Lenten Luncheons:** Our Knights of St. George will be hosting a Falafel Luncheon every Sunday following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendar. **We would like to thank Hassib Saliba, Salim Haddad and their families for sponsoring the Luncheon for this Sunday.**

POINSETTIA FLOWERS

- We are in need of Poinsettia flowers to decorate the Altar. If you wish to make a donation, please see Mr. George Ghneim or call the office 905-731-7210.

CHRISTMAS CARD

- Christmas is just around the corner, therefore, we are now collecting names for the parish Christmas card. The cost per family is \$20. Cards are sent to all the parishioners who submit their names. Every year we send out this card and we would not have been successful without your generosity and love. Please see Mr. George Ghneim or call the office 905-731-7210.
- **Maintaining Silence During the service:** The congregation is expected to actively participate in worship. However, God's house is a place for reverence and worship, not loud and idle conversations (between each other or on cell phones). Please, turn off cell phones and any other devices when you are attending the Liturgy. If you have a situation that requires you to speak to other parishioners, please do that quietly outside the church or downstairs in the basement. Thank you.
- **Registration is Mandatory to attend Sunday's Liturgies.** An email will be sent out on a weekly basis with the EVENTBRITE invite so all parishioners must register with their number of family members. Maximum allowed capacity is 50% of permitted numbers. If you do not receive an email, you can go to the parish's website www.stgeorgeto.org to register on EVENTBRITE. Please call Colette for any questions.
- Sunday school has now begun. Classes begin immediately following communion every Sunday. We are in person in the church basement.

If you would like to register for Sunday school please do so by clicking on the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CLSiTwh8sSQAzxbMCKaakUzjCG2sdCI9TxS0kbtMeuk/edit>

TEEN SOYO UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Friday December 10 = 7:00pm-10:00pm**
*Spiritual talk with Abouna (Spiritual-Social) @ Church Basement/Centre's Gym
- **Friday December 17 = 7:00pm-10:00pm**
*Decorating GingerbreadHouses (Fun-Social) @ Church Basement/Centre's Gym
- **Monday to Tuesday December 27-28**
*SOYO Sleepover!! (Fun-Social-Spiritual) @ Church Basement/Centre's Gym
- **SOYO = Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations** We are a dynamic group of Orthodox Christians that provides teens the opportunity to grow spiritually with fellow SOYO members within the community.
We focus on Spiritual, Fundraising, and Bonding Activities for ages 13-18

Are you between the ages of 13-18?

Do you want to get involved?

Do you want to see behind the scene photos?

Do you have any questions?

Join our WhatsApp group for direct communication for all our events.

Contact your Youth Advisors!

Angela Ghazal: (416) 720-0308 Or Fady Freiga: (647) 892-6136

You can also find us on...

Facebook @ St. George Toronto Teen SOYO

Instagram @ toronto.soyo

Email @ toronto.soyo@gmail.com

- ***Safety Protocols:***

Abide by the provincial safety regulations, (sanitize your hands upon entering, wait for volunteers to seat you, always wear your mask in church and respect social distancing)

Masks can only be taken off when taking communions, you must put your mask on when you are returning to your seats

We rely on your kind cooperation. If you are not able to come, please cancel your registration.

Looking forward to praying with you.

- **Kindly Submit your Contribution through the Following Methods: Connect to the Church**

Website www.stgeorgeto.org Click on *Donate*

- **“e-transfer” info@stgeorgeantiochianchurch.org Account Name: St. George Church**

- **PayPal, or send your Cheque by Mail to: St. George Antiochian Church, 9116 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3M9**

**Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.
(Psalm 112:5)**

- **Bookstore: New icons have just arrived in our bookstore. The Bookstore is located in the church's basement. Icons are great gifts for newborn, new home, your car or your children, and Christmas gifts. Please see Colette El-Hajj or Odette Boutros to see these new icons.**

- **Canned Food Drive: please bring non-perishable canned food to donate to the needy and place them in the box outside in the Narthex.**

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

TONE 8 / EOTHINON 3

**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST &
SPYRIDON, BISHOP OF TRIMYTHOUS, THE WONDERWORKER**

JOHN, METROPOLITAN OF ZICHNON; HIEROMARTYR ALEXANDER, ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

الشَّماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّةِ بُولُسَ وَالْمِطْرَانِ
يُوحَنَّا وَفَكَ أُسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمِينَ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ
نَطْلُبُ.

- *During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant the hymns in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعُلُوِّ يَا مُتَحَنِّنٌ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذَا الثَّلَاثَةِ
الْأَيَّامِ، لِكَيْ تُعْتِقَنَا مِنَ الْآلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتِنَا وَقِيَامَتَنَا، يَا
رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

لَقَدْ زَكَّيْتَ بِالْإِيمَانِ الْآبَاءَ الْقَدَمَاءَ، وَبِهِمْ سَبَقْتَ
فَخَطَبْتَ الْبَيْعَةَ الَّتِي مِنَ الْأُمَّمِ، فَالْقَدِيسُونَ بِالْمَجْدِ
يَفْتَخِرُونَ، إِذْ مِنْ زَرْعِهِمْ أُنِيعَتْ ثَمَرَةٌ حَسْبِيَّةٌ، وَهِيَ
الَّتِي وَلَدَتْكَ بِغَيْرِ زَرْعٍ. فَبِتَضَرُّعِهِمْ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ
ارْحَمْنَا.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SPYRIDON IN TONE ONE

Thou wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst Angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

نَاصَلْتَ بِثَبَاتٍ عَنِ الْمَجْمَعِ الْأَوَّلِ، * وَظَهَرْتَ
لِلْمُعْجَزَاتِ مُجْتَرِحًا عَجِيبًا. * فَالْحَيَّةُ صَارَتْ ذَهَبًا،
وَالْمَيْتَةُ خَاطِبَتُهَا فِي الْقَبْرِ، * وَالْمَلَايِكُ شَارِكَتُكَ فِي
الصَّلَوَاتِ، * كُلِّي الطُّهْرَ سَبِيرِيدُونَ. * فَالْمَجْدُ
لِلرَّبِّ الَّذِي مَجَّدَكَ. * الْمَجْدُ لِلَّذِي كَلَّلَكَ. * الْمَجْدُ
لِلْمَانِحِ بِكَ الْأَشْفِيَّةَ لِلْجَمِيعِ.

- Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

(**The original melody**)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة لتلد الكلمة الذي قبل الدهور، ولادة لا تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها، فأفرحي أيُّها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، الذي سيظهر بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو إلُّهنا الذي قبل الدهور.

THE EPISTLE (For St. Spyridon)

*The saints shall boast in glory.
Sing unto the Lord a new song.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth—proving what is acceptable to the Lord; and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them; for it is a shame even to speak of the things which they do in secret. But all things when they are exposed are made manifest by the light, for everything that is made manifest is light. Therefore, he says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon thee.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.

يفتخر الأبرار بالمجد. ربُّموا للربِّ ترنيمةً جديدةً. فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.

يا إخوة، اسلكوا كأولادٍ للنور - فإن ثمر الروح هو في كلِّ صلاحٍ وبرٍّ وحقٍّ - مُحْتَبِرِينَ ما هو مرْضِيٌّ لدى الرَّبِّ ولا تَشْتَرِكُوا في أعمال الظلمة غير المثمرة، بل بالأحرى وبخوا عليها. فإن الأفعال التي يفعلونها سرّاً، يقبُحُ نكرها أيضاً لكنَّ كلَّ ما يُوبَّخُ عليه، يُعلنُ بالنور فإنَّ كلَّ ما يُعلنُ هو نورٌ ولِذَلِكَ يَقُولُ: اسْتَيْقِظْ أَيُّها النَّائِمُ وَقُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْواتِ، فَيُضِيءُ لَكَ المَسِيحُ. فَانظُرُوا إِذَنْ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا بِحَدَرٍ، لا كجُهلاء، بل كحُكَماء، مُفْتَدِينَ الوَقْتَ فَإِنَّ الأَيامَ شَرِيْرَةٌ. فَلِذَلِكَ لا تَكُونُوا أَغْبِياءَ، بل افهِّمُوا ما مَشِيئَةُ الرَّبِّ. ولا تَسْكُرُوا بِالخَمْرِ التي فيها الدعارَةُ، بل اامتَلئُوا بالروح. مُكَلِّمِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً بِمَزَامِيرٍ وَتَسابيحٍ وَأَغانيٍ رُوحِيَّةٍ مُرْتَمِينَ ومُرتَلِينَ في قلوبِكُمُ للرَّبِّ.

THE GOSPEL (For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ النَّبِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيمًا
وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ
لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ. فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ
وَاحِدٌ فَوَاحِدٌ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ
حَقْلًا، وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ
تَعْفِينِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ
وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرِبَهَا، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفِينِي. وَقَالَ
الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ
أَجِيءَ. فَآتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. فَحِينئِذٍ،
غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعًا إِلَى
شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَزْقِهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَعَ
وَالْعُمْيَانَ وَالْعُرْجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ
قُضِيَ مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضًا مَحَلٌّ. فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ
لِلْعَبْدِ: أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ وَاضْطَرِّزْهُمْ إِلَى
الدُّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي. فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا
يَذُوقُ عَشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ. لِأَنَّ
الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-

الكاهن: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْحَقِيقِي، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ
بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمِّكَ الْكَلْبِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ
مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُحْيِي؛
وَبِطَلِبَاتِ الْقُوَاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛
وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانَ؛
وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمُشْرِفِينَ الرَّسُلِ، وَسَائِرِ الرَّسُلِ الْمُشْرِفِينَ

<p>laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; <i>of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community</i>; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ; of our righteous fathers Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, the Wonderworker; John, metropolitan of Zichnon; and Hieromartyr Alexander, archbishop of Jerusalem, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.</p>	<p>الْجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِّيسِينَ يُوحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْفَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَانِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشِّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِ (ة) (فُلَانِ، فُلَانَةَ) شَفِيعِ(ة) وَحَامِي(ة) هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِيِّ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ أَجْدَادِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَالْقَدِّيسِ اسْبِيرِيدُونَ الصَّانِعِ الْعَجَائِبِ، يُوحَنَّا أَسْقَفِ زِيكْنُونِ، وَالشَّهِيدِ فِي رُؤْسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ الْكِسْنَدَرِ أَسْقَفِ أورشَلِيمِ، الَّذِينَ نُقِيمُ تَذْكَارَهُمْ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِّيسِيكَ، اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.</p>
<p>Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.</p>	<p>الكاهن: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِّيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ الْهَذَا اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.</p>
<p>Choir: Amen.</p>	<p>الجوق: آمين.</p>
<p><i>These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese</i> Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from <i>The Menaion, The Great Horologion, The Pentecostarion, The Octoechos,</i> and <i>The Psalter of the Seventy</i>, which are Copyright © Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts, and are used with permission. All rights reserved. These works may not be further reproduced, beyond printing out a single copy for personal non-commercial use, without the prior written authorization of Holy Transfiguration Monastery.</p>	
<p>The Antiochian Archdiocese of North America is thankful to the Brotherhood of the Dormition of the Theotokos Monastery of Hamatoura, Lebanon and Fr. Nicholas Malek of the Archdiocese of Tripoli, El-Koura, and Dependencies in Lebanon for portions of the hymns of St. Spyridon and the Holy Forefathers in Arabic for this service.</p>	

- Saturday December 11, 5:00 p.m.: Great Vespers
- Sunday December 12, 9:00 a.m.: Orthros, 10:30 a.m.: Divine Liturgy (**11th Sunday of Luke, Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous**)
- Thursday December 16, 7:00 p.m.: Divine Liturgy (**Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy Youths**)
- Saturday December 18, 5:00 p.m.: Great Vespers
- Sunday December 19, 9:00 a.m.: Orthros, 10:30 a.m.: Divine Liturgy (**Sunday before Nativity**)
- Sunday December 19, 7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers (**Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch, Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**)
- Friday December 24, 9:00 a.m.: Great (Royal) Hours and Typika, 11:00 a.m.: **Vesperal Divine Liturgy.**
- Friday December 24, 10:00 p.m.: Festal Orthros, 11:00 p.m.: Divine Liturgy (**The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**)
- Sunday December 26, 9:00 a.m.: Orthros, 10:30 a.m.: Divine Liturgy (**Sunday after Nativity, Afterfeast of the Nativity, Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos**)
- Sunday December 26, 7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers (**Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr**)
- Friday December 31, 4:30 p.m.: Great Vespers, 5:30 p.m.: Orthros, 6:30 p.m.: Divine Liturgy (**Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Basil the Great**)

Christmas begins with Christ



With the Advent Season fast approaching, St. George Church is once again participating in several humanitarian projects whereby our community can provide assistance to Men, Women and Children in need. Our Lord has blessed us with so much – it is truly a blessing for us to be able to give back in some small way.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is a program run by Samaritan's Purse Canada. Operation Christmas Child allows individuals an opportunity to give boys and girls in need around the world a tangible expression of God's love through a gift-filled shoebox. Shoeboxes are available downstairs. Simply decide whether you would like to pack for a boy or girl and then choose an age category – 2-4 yrs, 5-9 yrs or 10 -14 years. Instructions and labels for download can be found by visiting <https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/pack-a-shoebox>. DO NOT include any liquids or glass items, nor any toys that could be considered a weapon. DO include some toiletries such as bar of soap, a toothbrush, a comb and/or brush, as well as a variety of small toys including puzzles, colouring/painting, school supplies etc. Also, please include \$10 to cover shipping charges. Remember to say a prayer for the child and his/her family who will be receiving your gift. National Collection Week is November 15-21, so please return your box to the church by November 14 if you wish for us to drop it off for you. You may also drop off your own box(es) at a drop off location near your home - <https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/drop-off-locations/>

PRISON MINISTRY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM – Every year, hundreds of thousands of children spend Christmas without their mom or dad due to parental incarceration. Angel Tree invites you to reach out to these children with the love of Jesus Christ; to transform what may be a painful season for them to a joyful and memorable one.

Angel Tree Christmas is a program of Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) that connects church communities and individuals with the families of prisoners through the delivery of a Christmas gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent. Children have the excitement of receiving a gift, but more importantly it tells them that mom or dad is thinking about them at Christmas time. For prisoners, your support helps them experience the love of God during a time marked by guilt and loneliness. By strengthening their family ties, it also reduces their probability of re-offending when released.

We have agreed to sponsor 30 children whose parent is imprisoned. The cost of each gift is approximately \$35. If \$35 is not within your budget, we would appreciate any amount which can be put towards the purchase and/or shipping of the gifts. Angels will be available, God-willing, the 3rd weekend in November.

LOOT BAGS FOR ST. JOHN THE COMPASSIONATE MISSION - Once again, we are privileged to be able to offer special Christmas loot bags to the needy people who frequent St. John the Compassionate Mission. We will be filling 150 bags for men, 75 for women and 80 for children. Included will be the usual items such as socks, hats and gloves, as well as many personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. We will be packing the bags late November, so if you would like to help please let us know.

For all of these programs, we need your financial support! Donations may be made directly to the church, but please be sure to identify your donation for one/all of our humanitarian projects. If you have questions or would like to get more involved, please contact Michelle Alexopoulos at: 416-831-3813; m.alexopoulos@utoronto.ca; or Joanie Younes at 416-402-7424; joanieunis@hotmail.com. Thank you and God Bless You!



Help Give Bags of Blessings!!

- ❖ Our Church is making “**Blessing Bags**” for adults and children in need. The bags will be distributed during this Christmas season through St. John the Compassionate Mission.
- ❖ Each bag will contain: Toiletries, Socks, Hats & Gloves, and an extra Christmas treat/gift. Samples of the bags are shown below.



This small gesture will make someone's Christmas a little brighter and remind them of God's love!!

Jesus teaches us that ***It is more blessed to give than to receive.*** Please help us make as many bags as possible and give generously.

Donations can be made to the Church. Please write on the cheque, or note on the online donation, that the funds are for **Blessing Bags**.

For more information, or to get involved in packing/distributing, please contact:

Joanie Younes (joanieunis@hotmail.com) or Michelle Alexopoulos (malex@chass.utoronto.ca)



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

December 12, 2021

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 5:18–20

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Christ-Loving Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare ourselves in eager anticipation of the feast of His glorious Nativity in the flesh.

In the above quotation, St. Paul describes the Christian life itself as essentially musical. It is a life of holy joy, which naturally draws melodies of praise and thanksgiving up from the heart to the lips, so that every corner of Creation might resound with the glories of God. This musical way of life is taught us, first and foremost, by the choirs and chanters who week after week—and sometime day after day—fill our ears with the sweet hymnography of the Church. From the earliest age, these melodies sink into our hearts, so that it is not unusual to hear Orthodox Christians, from toddlers to seniors, spontaneously bursting into sacred song as they go about their daily life. These hymns are the spiritual air we breathe, and they stick with us thanks to the work of all our chanters and choirs.

While we set aside this Sunday in December each year to recognize these dedicated chanters, we strive throughout the year as an archdiocese to give them the resources and support they need, by providing the proper liturgical texts for each service, a growing online library of sacred music, and two annual Sacred Music Institutes (SMIs). This year's SMIs will be in Wichita, KS, (Feb. 17–20) and at the Antiochian Village (July 14–17). We encourage all our parishes to likewise support their choirs and chanters locally, especially by helping them attend training events such as the SMIs.

We truly want to thank the chair of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball, and all her team, as well as all our choir directors, chanters and choir members throughout our archdiocese, for their dedicated ministry. Most of you serve on a volunteer basis, and the time and talents you share, each and every week, are an inestimable blessing.

Wishing you and your families a blessed remainder of the Nativity Fast and a joyous feast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

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

+JOSEPH

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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