

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
28	Edith Mitchel	59
28	Farideh Qaqish	16
28	Fred Hanna	11
28	Naim Hinnawi	8
29	Hanni Bahou	11
30	Alice Bookalam	48
31	Dora Durzi	19
1	Edmond Kefoury	58
1	Adele Jabour	48
2	Martha Qaqish	21
2	Alfred Foty	21
2	Abraham Thomas	61
3	Nahda Kiameh	10
3	Agnes Anter	51

ETERNAL LIGHT

- Feb 3 for the good health of Stoyanka and family
In loving memory of Mitry & Violette Samaan
- Feb 10 for the good health of Michael Ghneim and family from his parents
- Feb 24 in loving memory of Adel Younes from his family
- Mar 3 for the good health of George Ghneim and family
- Mar 10 in loving memory of Yvonne Younes from her family

- **40 DAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE for Souraya Haddad Yared offered by Yared & Inaam yared and their family.**
The Coffee hour is offered today in memory of Souraya Haddad Yared by her family

- **Ushering for Feb 3:** Hanna Hinnawi, Jean Dahdaly, George Boutros, William Besharat
- **Ushering for Feb 10:** Edward Abboud, Nabil Samaan, Ramiz Abu Eleh, Fouad Kodsi
- **Ladies meeting will be on Sunday February 3rd** after Liturgy at the Choir loft.
- Please, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Attiah, Ellen, Lucy, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Ezabel, Nassar and Adel. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.
- **March is women month.** Please, see one of the officers to read and help with ushering.
- Parish Life Conference will be at our church between July 4-7 of this year. We will have a table set up soon to register and buy souvenir journal ads. For more information please see Sana Besharat, Richard Smith, or Samantha Nassar.
- Holy Land Pilgrimage for our church will be May 8 to May 17 (9 days and 8 nights). Cost \$1250 USD plus flights. For more information and reservation please see or call Ramzi Shnoudeh 647/500-2081, or Maha Khashram 647/966-7749.
- **Bake Sale:** The Teens will have their bake sale on Sunday February 17th after Liturgy.
- **Camp T Fundraising:** There will be a luncheon on March 3rd after Liturgy in the basement to help raise funds to assist with the bus cost. Please, see Lina Rizik Shnoudeh to donate or call her at 647/801-2081.
- **Block your calendar:** During Lent we will have services in the evening at 7 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and some Saturdays. Please, plan on joining us. Lent starts March 11th.
- **Bishop John Visit:** His Grace Bishop John Abdallah will be leading us in an all-day retreat on Saturday April 13th. He will be with us the whole weekend. We will have different activities for him with different organizations. More to come.

- **ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION 2019:** We invite you to share your story and celebrate together with us in **Grand Rapids July 21-28**. Please go to **AC2019GR.ORG/FORMS** and reserve your place in the Convention Souvenir Journal. Don't forget to register for the convention, buy your event tickets, and book your hotel rooms!

PRISON MINISTRY

- On Friday, April 19th, a small group from St. George will be going to Toronto South Detention Centre to hand out Easter packages to the over 600 inmates. This will be our 16th annual visit to this maximum-security prison. Those who are interested in participating in this blessed ministry, please contact Diane Younes at 416-464-5908. Financial donations would be greatly appreciated.

"Let the children come to Me, for because of them, the Kingdom of God has come"

A committee has been formed with the blessing of Abouna George to help raise the funds necessary to cover the cost of the bus transportation for children attending Camp Transfiguration. We estimate that with the increasing number of children attending, the total cost this year will be between \$8000-\$10000, if not more. To continue to encourage parents to send their children to Camp T it is imperative that we give them the incentive to do so. Acknowledging the fact that some families face numerous challenges sending their children to camp will go a long way in providing the extra support they need.

We all know how critical a role Camp T plays in expanding and contributing to the overall growth of our children and more specifically to the love and devotion they have for Orthodoxy. Let this be our collective mission for this year and for all future years to come - that the children of our Parish, our dear sons and daughters, grandchildren, Godchildren, nieces and nephews all continue to grow in Christ's love and guidance.

Having said that, one of the first initiatives the committee will be implementing is the first Annual St. George Luncheon Benefiting the Children of Camp Transfiguration. The luncheon will be held on Sunday March 3rd in the church basement after Divine Liturgy. We are asking our entire community to cordially join us in making our first event truly memorable and successful.

Tickets will go on sale this Sunday after Divine Liturgy and will continue to be sold until the event is sold out. Adults are \$15 and children 12 and under are \$10. We have no intention of selling tickets at the door. We will also be selling raffle tickets in advance for prizes to be won during the luncheon.

To this effect, we are asking for our parishioners to extend themselves by donating to our event in one of several ways:

1-cash donations

2-we will need desserts, fruit platters, bottled water, pop and juice boxes to be donated for the event.

3- gift cards, vouchers for services and or new items (or you can donate cash with which prizes can be bought) that will go towards making our raffle extremely worthwhile!

Upon request, donations greater than \$20 can have tax receipts issued.

On behalf of our committee, thank you in advance for your continued support, your dedication to our Parish and for your generosity. Together we can exceed our expectations!

Please feel free to contact Lina Rizik Shnoudeh at 647-801-2081 for further information or to make a donation.

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple



Commemorated on [February 2](#)

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “the Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon “Simeon’s Prophecy” symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: “a sword shall pierce through your own soul” (Luke 2:35).