

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
16	Hanna Daides	21
18	Aida Awad	21
19	Yvonne Hanna	7
19	Izzat Hinnawi	31
20	Hanna Qaqish	10
21	Issa Khoury	14

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **Apr 21:** for the good health of John & Carla Bisharat and their daughter.
In loving memory of Yousef & Sumayya Musallam from their family
- **Apr 28:** for the good health of Issa Bisharat and family
- **May 19:** In loving memory of Adel Younes from his family
- **June 2:** In loving memory of Ernest Younes from his family

- **Sunday, April 21 Ushers:** Ramzi Shnoudeh, Jalal Qaqish, Wisam Henn, Jean Dahdaly
- **Sunday, April 28 Ushers:** Labib Chami, Colette El-Hajj, Ayoub Kakish, Maien Kakish
- **We will have a second collection today for the Patriarchate of Antioch, our Mother Church.**
- **The procession will be after the final blessing around the outside of the church, weather permitting.**
- Please, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Attiah, Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Isabelle, Nassar, Adel and Valentine. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.
- If you are new to our parish or a visitor, please introduce yourself to one of the ushers and speak to Fr. George. We want to welcome you to our family of St. George. If you want to join our church, please speak to Father after Liturgy.
- **Decorating the Bier of Christ** on Holy Friday April 26th: you are all invited to help in decorating the Bier of Christ after the Service of the Hours at around 12 PM.
- **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.
- **Services Next Week:** **Bridegroom service** on **Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday** at 7 PM. **Wednesday:** Holy Unction 7 PM. **Thursday:** 10 AM Divine Liturgy, at 7 PM the 12 Gospels (Father will perform the washing of the feet before the service starts if enough people are present). **Holy Friday:** 10 AM the Hours, 3 PM Descend from the Cross, 7 PM The service of Burial/Lamentation. **Holy Saturday:** 10 AM Divine Liturgy, 11 PM Hajmah, Orthros and the Divine Liturgy followed by Potluck. **Pascha Sunday: Agape Vespers at 3 PM. Dinner at our center at 5 PM. Christ is Risen.**
- **St. George Feast Day:** will be celebrated on Bright Monday with Orthros at 9 AM followed by the Divine Liturgy.
- **Adult Christian Education:** Roshan Carpenter is preparing some people for baptism every Sunday between 9:30 am to 10:15 am. If you are interested to learn more about our Faith, you can join him downstairs.
- **St. George Center:** Don't forget to book the center for all your events. Call Fouad Kodsi at 416/917-5457.
- **Graduates:** all high school and university graduates: please, give your names to Joanie Younes. Father would like to honor all our graduates one Sunday in June.
- **Pascha Celebration:** We will have a Pascha dinner offered at the centre on Sunday of Pascha after the Agapy Service. If you like to join us for the meal, please see Fouad Kodsi, or George Boutros.
- **Wine and Holy Bread Donations:** if you like to donate towards the wine or holy bread, please see the office. \$350 for Holy Bread, and \$300 for wine.
- **Young Adults Retreat** with the topic: "Forming Authentic Relationships in a Fallen World", May 3rd-May 5th. Visit www.stgeorgeworcester.org
- The General Assembly of our parish will be on Sunday June 9th, at 7 PM.

- **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 1,300 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.

THE 24th ANNUAL ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Our Annual St. George Golf Tournament is on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at **Emerald Hills Golf & Country Club, 14001 Warden Avenue (14001 Concession #5)**. Registration and Lunch at 11:30 am. Tee off time 1:00 pm, Dinner 6pm. The price for golfer including dinner is \$250. Our goal for the golf tournament this year is to raise \$100,000 so we need everyone's help to achieve that! If you choose to not play golf, we also offer dinner only, tickets for \$75. We need everyone's participation. A portion of the proceeds will be going to Autism Ontario (York Region Chapter).
Mark your calendar and reserve A.S.A.P. Please Fax or Email registration forms to aftim.nassar@gmail.com Aftim Nassar 416- 895-2767, Richard Smith 647-280-0883, John Younes 647-982-7645, Fax 416-743-6155 \ www.stgeorgeto.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR PALM SUNDAY AND THE HOLY WEEK

- Candles for your children will be available at the Church Vestibule, donation \$5.00 per candle
- During the Divine Liturgy and the procession, you are kindly requested to keep proper decorum, let us all behave in order, in discipline and in peace so that we can pray in one mind and one heart and that Our Lord may hear our supplications and bestow upon us His Blessings.
- All beloved parishioners are requested not to park their cars in the driveways. Procession will start from the outside main door of the Church, turn left on driveway behind the building into the parking lot, around the Church back to the main door and into the Church.

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| • Palm Sunday, April 21 | 9:00 am. | Matins Service. |
| | 10:30 am. | Divine Liturgy, blessings of Palms and Procession. |
| | 7:00 pm. | 1 st Bridegroom Service. |
| • Great Holy Monday, April 22 | 7:00 pm. | 2 nd Bridegroom Service. |
| • Great Holy Tuesday, April 23 | 7:00 pm. | 3 rd Bridegroom Service. |
| • Great Holy Wednesday, April 24 | 7:00 pm. | Holy oil Service. Anointing of the Faithful with Holy Oil. |
| • Great Holy Thursday, April 25 | 10:00 am. | Mystical Supper Liturgy. |
| | 7:00 pm. | Service of the Holy Passion
Gospels of Crucifixion. |
| • Great Holy Friday, April 26 | 10:00 am. | Service of the Royal Hours. |
| | 3:00 pm. | Vespers and taking down of Christ
Divine Body from the Cross. |
| | 7:00 pm. | Lamentation Service & Burial of our Lord. |
| • Great Holy Saturday, April 27 | 10:00 am. | Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. |

11:00 pm. The Rush Procession Service
followed by Orthros, Divine Liturgy.

- **Potluck after in the basement, everyone is encouraged to bring non-Lenten food to share.**
- Great Holy Easter Sunday, April 28 3:00 pm. Agape Vespers. The Baouth Service Followed by procession.
- **Pascha Celebration:** We will have a Pascha dinner offered at the Centre on Sunday of Pascha after the Agapy Service. If you like to join us for the meal, please see Fouad Kodsi or George Boutros.

Hosanna: Palm Sunday

The Saturday of Lazarus, from the liturgical point of view, is the pre-feast of Palm Sunday -- the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem. Both feasts have a common theme: triumph and victory. Saturday reveals the Enemy, which is death; Palm Sunday announces the meaning of victory as the triumph of the Kingdom of God, as the acceptance by the world of its only King, Jesus Christ. In the life of Jesus, the solemn entrance in the Holy City was the only visible triumph. Up to that day, He consistently rejected all attempts to glorify Him. But six days before the Passover, He not only accepted to be glorified, He Himself provoked and arranged this glorification. By doing what the prophet Zechariah announced: "behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass' colt!" (Zechariah 9:9), He made it clear that He wanted to be acclaimed and acknowledged as the Messiah, the King and the Redeemer of Israel. And the Gospel narratives stress all these messianic features: the Palms and the Hosanna, the acclamation of Jesus as the Son of David and the King of Israel. The history of Israel is now coming to its end, such is the meaning of this event. For the purpose of that history was to announce and to prepare the kingdom of God, the advent of the Messiah. And now it is fulfilled. For the King enter His Holy City and in Him all prophecies, all expectations find their fulfillment. He inaugurates His Kingdom. The Liturgy of Palm Sunday commemorates this event. With palm branches in our hands we identify ourselves with the people of Jerusalem, together with them we greet the lowly King, singing Hosanna to Him. But what is the meaning of it today and for us?

Citizenship in the Kingdom First, it is our confession of Christ as our King and Lord. We forget so often that the Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated and that on the day of our baptism we were made citizens of it, have promised to put our loyalty to it above all other loyalties. We must always remember that for a few hours, Christ was indeed King on earth, in this world of ours. For a few hours only and in one city. But, as in Lazarus we have recognized the image of each man, in this one city we acknowledge the mystical center of the world and indeed of the whole creation. For such is the Biblical meaning of Jerusalem, the focal point of the whole history of salvation and redemption, the holy city of God's advent. Therefore, the Kingdom inaugurated in Jerusalem is a universal Kingdom, embracing in its perspective all men and the totality of creation... For a few hours -- yet these were the decisive time, the ultimate hour of Jesus, the hour of fulfillment by God of all His promises, of all His decisions. It came at the end of the entire process of preparation, revealed in the Bible, it was the end of all that God did for men. And thus, this short hour of Christ's earthly triumph acquires an eternal meaning. It introduces the reality of the Kingdom into our time, into all hours, makes this Kingdom the meaning of time and its ultimate goal. The Kingdom was revealed in this world and from that hour; its presence judges and transforms human history... And when at the most solemn moment of our Liturgical celebration, we receive p. 4 from the priest a palm branch, we renew our oath to our King, we confess His Kingdom as the ultimate meaning and content of our life. We confess that everything in our life and in the world belongs to Christ and nothing can be taken away from its sole real Owner, that there is no area of life in which He is not to rule, to save and to redeem. We proclaim the universal and total responsibility of the Church for human history and uphold her universal mission.

The Way of the Cross: But we know that the King whom the Jews acclaimed then and whom we acclaim today, is on His way to Golgotha, to the Cross and to the grave. We know that this short triumph is but the prologue of His sacrifice. The branches in our hands signify, therefore, our readiness and willingness to follow Him on this sacrificial way, our acceptance of sacrifice and self-denial as the only royal way to the Kingdom. And finally, these branches, this celebration, proclaim our faith in the final victory of Christ. His Kingdom is yet hidden and the world ignores it. It lives it as if the decisive event had not taken place, as if God had not died on the Cross and Man in Him was not risen from the dead. But we, Christians, believe in the coming of the Kingdom in which God will be all in all and Christ the only King. In our liturgical celebrations, we remember events of the past. But the whole meaning and power of Liturgy is that it transforms remembrance into reality. On Palm Sunday this reality is our own involvement, our responsibility to, the Kingdom of God. Christ does not enter into Jerusalem anymore, He did it once and for all. And He does not need any "symbols," for He did not die on the Cross that we may eternally "symbolize" His life. He wants from us a real acceptance of the Kingdom which He brought to us... And if we are not ready to stand by the solemn oath, which we renew every year on Palm Sunday, if we do not mean to make the Kingdom of God the measure of our whole life, meaningless is our commemoration and vain the branches we take home from the Church.