

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
21	Camilia Elfar	7
22	Claire Tannous	17
23	Lurice Qaqish	13
24	Salameh Balisy	14
24	Subhi Jadon	9
25	Amin Shakra	18
26	RandyMichael Dahdaly	29
26	Hanna Dorkhom	23

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **June 2:** In loving memory of Ernest Younes from his family
For the good health of Carla & John Bisharat and their daughters
- **2 YEARS MEMORIAL SERVICE for Yvonne Hajjar & Elie Haddad, and 40 years for Nicholas Hajjar offered by Martha Hajjar, Amira Dewar and her family. May their memory be eternal**
- **Ushers, May 26:** George Boutros, Moaein Qaqish, Ibrahim Zaccak, William Kakish, Souheil El-Hage
- **Ushers, June 2:** Farouk Alkassam, Raja Shnoudeh, Issa Bisharat, Nabil Tahan.
- **Ushers, June 9:** Lana Dabbagh, Bassam Al-Hinn, Nichoals Dahdaly, Salim Besharat.
- **Fr. George will resume the blessing of homes after May 19th.**
- **Ladies meeting:** after liturgy this Sunday upstairs in the choir loft. All Ladies 18 years and older are welcome.
- **Parish council meeting:** Tuesday May 28th at 7:30 PM.
- **Sunday School Graduation:** June 2nd at the end of Liturgy.
- **Honoring our Graduates:** We will honor our graduates from high school and universities next Sunday June 9th at the end of Liturgy. Please, make sure to give the names to Joanie Younes.
- **Feast of the Ascension:** will be celebrated on Wednesday June 5th at 6:30 PM Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
- **Pentecost Sunday** June 16th: we will have the kneeling prayers at the end of the Liturgy.
- **Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul:** will be celebrated on Friday June 28th with Orthros at 6:30 PM followed by the Divine Liturgy.
- **The Fast for the Apostles:** will starts on Monday June 24th until June 28th. Fish is permitted.
- **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.
- Grief Support will be on Thursday, May 30th at 7 PM.

Special Retirement Lunch Honouring Venise Koussaie

- As Venise Koussaie will be retiring from directing the St. George Choir in July 2019, the choir members are organizing a special lunch to honour her on Sunday June 9, 2019 at The St. George Centre at 1:00 pm.

Anybody interested in attending this special lunch can contact any of the organizing committee members listed below. The cost of the lunch will be \$ 25.00 per person and tickets will be sold in the choir loft after the service on Sunday May 12 and 19. As it is a special lunch honouring Venise, no additional tickets will be sold at the entrance on the day of the lunch.

Organizing committee members:

Christine Pickering (416) 402-5985; Diana Abdo (416) 498-5207; Teddy Abdo (416) 498-5207.

- **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.
- **PLEDGE FORM:** Please fill your pledge form for 2019 if you have not done so. For blank form, please see **Colette El-Hajj**. Thank you
- 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.

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

FIRE ROUTE & HANDICAPPED PARKING, AND PARKING LINES

- Please make sure not to park on the side of the church or in front of the Fire hydrant, for this is a fire route, also ensure not to park in the spots designated for handicapped parking. Anyone who parks and does not show a handicap permit on the window will be tagged.

Religious Couples Have Happier Marriages: *New study examines egalitarianism, religion in 21st-century relationships* By Fr. John Peck

Both religion and egalitarianism have something to offer those seeking a happy marriage in a world of shifting mores—though religion leads to more children—a new report on international perspectives on marital happiness shows.

The report, a joint project of the Institute for Family Studies and the Wheatley Institution, uses data from two surveys of respondents in eleven countries: Argentina, Australia, Chile, Canada, Colombia, France, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The authors set out to examine the now standard bromide that progressive, secular social values lead to happier marriages. As study authors W. Bradford Wilcox, Jason S. Carroll, and Laurie DeRose wrote in the *New York Times*, the recipe for a happy marriage is either being religious or being egalitarian—those stuck in the middle are consistently the worst off.

To reach this result, the study's authors looked at roughly 5,000 couples surveyed in the Global Family and Gender Survey (GFGS). Based on frequency of religious attendance, these couples were classified as either secular, religious, or mixed. What the survey data show is that high religious couples report higher rates of marital and sexual satisfaction than their mixed or secular peers.

To nuance this analysis, the authors then looked at the relationship between religious attendance, relationship satisfaction, and sentiments about gender equality. Specifically, they broke down respondents by their (dis)agreement with the statement, "it is usually better for everyone involved if the father takes the lead in working outside the home and the mother takes the lead in caring for the home and family."

Combining the two categories generated by yes/no answers to this question with the three categories, the authors find what they characterize as a “j-curve”: the more progressive, irreligious couples are happier than the mixed traditional and progressive couples, but the religious couples are the happiest of all. In other words, an irreligious, non-progressive couple is less happy than a progressive one, but both are less happy than a religious couple.

This dichotomy between the religious traditionalist and the progressive egalitarian persists across other findings in the report. For example, both are less likely to engage in intimate partner violence, and both are more likely to share decision-making responsibilities.

The study’s authors are quick to emphasize that there is not necessarily a causal relationship between religious or progressive values, and marital happiness, only a correlation. Nonetheless, these findings suggest two different models for how to run a successful, happy marriage. Either one practices a gender egalitarian model, where work is shared equally; or one relies upon the social capital and support of a religious community to encourage a well-balanced and happy marriage. Those who lose out, in terms of marital happiness, are those who neither share labor within the marriage nor with a larger community. This is the group of Americans whose lives *Washington Examiner* editor Timothy P. Carney recently covered in his book *Alienated America*. Carney argues that left-behind Americans—like the millions who put Donald Trump in the White House—suffer from a lack of social capital, brought on by a decline of religious community.

There is one factor where religious couples beat egalitarian couples: fertility. The study’s authors find that the fertility gap between highly religious and irreligious couples has grown over the past two decades, from an additional 0.24 kids to an additional 0.27 kids on average. Across countries with below-replacement fertility rates, indicators like frequency of religious attendance were clearly related to fertility.

As such, while progressive values might be a recipe for a happier marriage, they are less likely to lead to a rising fertility rate. Contra claims that feminism is the new pro-natalism, religion still seems the way to go if you want to have more kids.