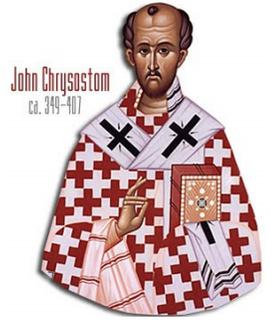




The Sunday School Scroll



John Chrysostom
ca. 349-407

Volume I, Issue III
November 2014

St. George Sunday School Newsletter
Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, Cathedral Dean
Carmen Kostik, Principal
Anna-Sarah Farha, Editor

Patron Saint of Sunday School

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Nov 15-Dec 25
Advent Humanitarian Drive
- ◆ Dec 7 & 14
Mandatory Pageant Rehearsal
- ◆ Dec 20 - Dress Rehearsal
- ◆ Dec 21 - Christmas Pageant (no classes)
- ◆ Dec 21 - Honor Roll Student Recognition
- ◆ Dec 28 - Christmas Caroling, Villa Maria

A Message from the Principal

Dear St. George Family,
Thanksgiving Holiday is a time to reflect and be thankful for all the blessings that God has bestowed on us and our families. Although a daily approach of thankfulness is vital to all healthy relationships and life in general, it is important to set apart a special time to celebrate the greatness of our Lord and express our thanks to Him and to those around us.

We acknowledge that spiritual development starts with God's Word as he reveals Himself and His purpose, therefore, His Word stands preeminent as the foundation of the Sunday School curriculum. We are thankful to God for His guidance and for giving us a vision and the spirit to see it through, and for a Cathedral Council and a spiritual leader such as Fr. Saba, who nurture us in our plans.

We are also thankful for you, the

families who believe in and support the mission of the Sunday School even during challenging times. Scripture says in **1 Thessalonians 5:11** "Encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing." - This is an expression of teamwork. YOU are an essential part of the Sunday School team because we need one another to accomplish the best for our children; God is moving in a powerful way through our school, and we are all blessed to be a part of it.

Our Sunday School is stronger now than it has been in many years because of you, and on behalf of the Sunday School teachers and staff, I wish to thank you and wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Carmen Kostik
Principal

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶
2 Corinthians 2:14-17

The Field Trip originally scheduled for Sunday, November 9th, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. We apologize and will keep you informed as we try to reschedule it for the beginning of the new year.



Advent Humanitarian Drive

Each year, starting November 15th, the St. John the Divine Ministry sponsors the Advent Humanitarian Drive. This effort is directed to the neighbors who live around our Cathedral, specifically those who may not be able to afford a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. The annual outreach is made possible through the generosity of the St. George Cathedral families; last year we were able to provide assistance to our neighbors in need, with a significant contribution that



came from our Sunday School students from all grade levels. As we all reflect on our blessings, we ask for your usual generosity once again this year. Please bring your contributions in the form of non perishable food items that may be distributed among poor families. For details, please see the Sunday bulletin.

Book of Mark Schedule of Readings

11/16 Chapter 5:1-20
11/23 Chapter 5:21-43
11/30 Chapter 6:1-29
12/7 Chapter 6:30-56
12/14 Chapter 7:1-16



Christmas Pageant 2014 Sunday, December 21st

As in previous years, the Sunday School students will be preparing a special Christmas production to be presented **Sunday, December 21st**, immediately following Divine Liturgy.

On behalf of myself and the Sunday School teachers, I wish to thank you ahead of time for encouraging your children to participate in the presentation. We ask for your cooperation in regards to the extended Sunday School schedule to accommodate the rehearsals; we know that this time of the year is quite

demanding for everyone and agendas fill up quickly, so, as usual, we'd be delighted to count on your full support.

Because of time constraints it is **vital** that all students are present for Sunday School/Rehearsals. Their attendance will ensure a successful event.

Friendships and the spirit of sharing are some of the most important gifts of the Christmas season and we hope this festivity will bring our students closer together, making it a memorable one for all of them.

In Christ,
Carmen Kostik

**Have a question
or comment?**

**Want to submit
an idea to
the newsletter?**

Email us at:
SundaySchool@
StGMiami.org

Rehearsals:
Sunday, 12/7, 1pm
Sunday, 12/14, 1pm

Dress Rehearsal:
Saturday, 12/20,
10am-1pm

Pageant:
Sunday, 12/21
Following Liturgy

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 28th

This year the Sunday School Youth Choir is planning to reinstitute the beautiful tradition of Christmas Caroling!

In the spirit of Christmas and wanting to share the joy of the Season with others, the Youth Choir has secured the afternoon of Sunday, December 28th to visit Villa Maria Nursing Home in North Miami.

All interested students, especially those who have already signed up for the Youth Choir, are invited to participate.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

We will travel as a group, leaving the Cathedral after liturgy, returning around 3:30 pm.

Please complete a **Parental Authorization form** and return to Carmen Kostik by December 7th so proper arrangements may be made.

A few volunteer chaperones will be needed to accompany the students; if you would like to go along, please let us know.

Attendance Tracker Holy Days & Special Services

Attention Parents,

An attendance binder has been created to record the names of the students attending special services held on major feasts and holy days at the Cathedral:

- Feast of the Nativity of the Lord
- Lent Services
- Palm Sunday
- Holy Week Services
- Paschal Liturgy
- Holy Pascha Agape Service

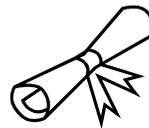
The binder is placed on a small table in the narthex and kept by the Ushers in charge; each student should enter his/her name on arrival. The purpose of this exercise is to maintain a record of the students' attendance during those special services in order to give them due credit towards their final grade in Sunday School. We thank you for your cooperation and for encouraging your child(ren) to attend regularly.

In Christ,
Carmen Kostik
Principal

Bible Activity: Psalm 107:1

On the line below each leaf write the word that appears in the matching leaf at the bottom of the page.

Key



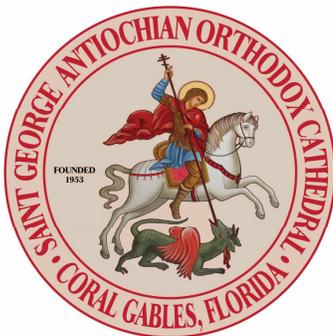
SOYO BUZZ

Scholarships for Antiochian Students



Visit www.antiochian.org/scholarships for more information on the following scholarships:

- Francis Maria Scholarship
- Harry & Florence Kouri Scholarship for a DOWAMA Graduating High School Senior
- 2014 Bill Cohlmiia & Joan Cohlmiia-Razook Memorial Scholarship for the Continuing Education of DOWAMA Clergy
- 2014 Antiochian Women's Scholarship
- 2014 Eastern Diocese Fellowship of St. John the Divine Scholarship
- 2014 Diocese of Toledo Metropolitan Anthony Bashir Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually to up to four students by the fellowship of St. John the Divine. Applications should be sent to St. Marks, 3650 Logan Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44505. Contact: Mike Thomas, ysu52@hotmail.com, 216-406-1996.



St. George
Antiochian Orthodox
Cathedral
320 Palermo Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone:
(305) 444-6541

Fax:
(305) 445-6530

E-mail:
SundaySchool@
StGMiami.org

We're on the Web!
StGMiami.org

Sunday School Staff

November's newsletter continues the introductions of the St. George Sunday School Staff in their own words: Kh. Diana Saba - Snack Team Coordinator, and Anna-Sarah Farha - Editor of The Sunday School Scroll. December's newsletter will feature additional staffers, so stay tuned as we meet the entire group over the next few months.

Kh. Diana: I am so excited to be the Sunday School Snack Team Coordinator for this year! For many who may not know, I was born in San Juan Puerto Rico and lived there until the age of 7 after which my family moved to the Holy Land and we lived in Ramallah, Palestine until the age of 19. I have 5 siblings. A very large extended family. My father had a restaurant my whole life even before I was born. I love food! I love to cook. I enjoy creating new recipes. I hope to help Sunday School as much as I can! Sahtain to all the children!

Anna-Sarah: Chrismated into the Orthodox Church in 2006 after being introduced to the Faith by my husband, Chris. As a new member at St. George Cathedral, I am thankful to be part of such a welcoming, vibrant parish. When not chasing after our toddler, Genevieve, I enjoy cooking and photography.

"Ask Abuna" Monthly Column

Use this form to submit your questions for Fr. Saba.
Cut out and give to your Sunday School teacher.

Name (optional):

Question:

Apolytikion

*Rejoice, O Father
Raphael, adornment
of the holy Church!
Thou art champion of
the True Faith, seeker
of the lost,
consolation of the
oppressed, father to
orphans and friend of
the poor, peacemaker
and good shepherd,
joy of all the
Orthodox, son of
Antioch, boast of
America. Intercede
with Christ God for us
and for all who honor
thee.*

Saint of the Month Spotlight: St. Raphael Hawaweeny, Bishop of Brooklyn

Commemorated on November 1

"Born in Beirut, Lebanon, and educated in Damascus Syria, Halki, Turkey, and Kiev, Russia, Raphael Hawaweeny found himself virtually exiled in Kazan, Russia, making himself of use on the faculty of the Anti-Muslim Missionary School, when he was summoned to the New World by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Committee in New York City. Immigrating in 1895 and serving under the aegis of the Russian Orthodox Mission -- then the only established Orthodox hierarchy -- he was technically pastor of St. Nicholas Church (later Cathedral) in Brooklyn, NY, but was, in fact, the roving pastor of several dozen tiny, isolated communities spread thinly across the continent. As a priest he crossed the continent repeatedly in the course of nine years, and did so several more after being consecrated Bishop of Brooklyn -- the first such Orthodox consecration in North America -- in 1905. He established a journal, *al-Kalimat*, to spread "the Word" to places he could not himself be, and worked diligently at translating Greek liturgical books into Arabic. These he distributed at his own expense to communities throughout the Middle East and to émigrés in the Americas, Africa, and Australasia, greatly helped preserve Orthodox Christianity in those regions."

"Several themes emerge as the story of St. Raphael's life unfolds. The first is the mysterious way in which God led him from his native homeland to the shores of the American continent. The second is his submissive attitude to the providence of God. And the third is his love for the people of God. Though during his lifetime he was neither a wonder-worker nor a clairvoyant elder, St. Raphael embraced a life of total abandonment of self for the service of God and his fellow man: a life of true spiritual asceticism."

From *The Life of Our Father among the Saints Raphael Hawaweeny*, published in the May 2000 issue of *The Word* following St. Raphael's glorification.