

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral  
Sunday, January 23, 2022



كاتدرائية القديس جاورجيوس للروم الأرثوذكس

الأحد ٢٣ كانون الثاني ٢٠٢٢

النشرة الأسبوعية

# The Weekly Bulletin



31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & 14<sup>TH</sup> OF LUKE

الأحد الحادي والثلاثون بعد العنصرة والرابع عشر من لوقا

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:26

The Weekly Bulletin is an official publication of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, Coral Gables, Florida.



The **Orthodox Christian Faith** proclaims the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**, the teachings of the Apostles, and the tradition and life of the living Church worldwide, free from error and distortion through worship, communion, witness, and service. We are one community of many in the **One, Holy, Catholic (Universal), and Apostolic Church** that has maintained, throughout the ages, a continuity of faith and love with the apostolic community—founded in **God the Father**, through **Jesus Christ**, and sustained by the **Holy Spirit**. **Visitor(s)**, please feel at home in prayer and worship. Only those practicing Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the Chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone else is welcome to partake of the Blessed Holy Bread after the Divine Liturgy.

## **Cathedral Administrative and Organizational Body**

The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH, *Primate*

*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*

The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, *Diocesan Bishop*

*Diocese of Miami and the Southeast*

The Reverend Father Joseph Hector Abouid

### **Brotherhood of the Noble Joseph:**

*Cathedral Dean*

### **Cathedral Council:**

Rev. Fr. Joseph Hector Abouid, *Dean*

Sdn. Charles Khoury

Sdn. Elie Bardawil

Sdn. Sean Hatem

Sdn. Louis Hatem

Sdn. Hanna Soufia

Acolytes (servers)

Jackson King, *Choir Director/Lead Chanter*

Dr. Don Shalhub, *Chanter*

Yamil Zacur, *Lead Usher*

All Choir Members and Ushers

### **Council Stewardship Committee:**

Muazzi Hatem, *Finance*

Douglas Ede, *Legal*

Jamal Habib, *Membership*

Lama Elhaj, *Property Usage*

Yamil Zacur, *Property Management*

Noura Soufia, *Public Relations/Web Master*

Nasser Soufia, *Vision and Development*

### **Orthodox Christian Arabic School**

Reem Yazji, *Coordinator*

### **Cathedral Office:**

Mrs. Elsa Herrmann, *Office Secretary*

Rev. Fr. Joseph Hector Abouid, *Presiding Officer*

Andrea Abu-Akel, *Chairlady*

Nasser Soufia, *Vice-Chairman*

Jackie Barakat-Wanna, *Secretary*

Farid Jahjah, *Treasurer*

Muazzi Hatem, *Financial Secretary*

Sdn. Elie Bardawil, *Member*

Zena Bardawil Farah, *Member*

Douglas Ede, *Member*

Jamal Habib, *Member*

Michael Malouf, *Member*

Afram Mirza, *Member*

Hannan Mounayyer, *Member*

Diana Nimer O'Brien, *Member*

Yamil Zacur, *Member*

Tony Zammar, *Member*

### **Council ex officio Members:**

Lama El Haj, *Sunday School Principal*

Yola Hayek, *Antiochian Women*

Noura Soufia, *Young Adult Fellowship*

Christopher Wanna, *SOYO*

Zena B. Farah, *Order of Saint Ignatius*

Tony Zammar, *Antiochian Men*

### **SOYO Advisory Team:**

Hannan Mounayyer, *Lead Advisor*

Said Elhaj



# DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

## CHANGES IN THE DIVINE LITURGY

## تغييرات في القداس

At the beginning of the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m., please turn to page 92 in the Red Service Book to follow along with the Divine Liturgy. Likewise, please follow along the inserts in this *Weekly Bulletin* for the changes in today's Divine Liturgy (SEE BELOW).

~ During the Little Entrance ~

### Resurrectional Apolytikion (Tone Six)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

إِنَّ الْقُوَّاتِ الْمَلَائِكِيَّةَ ظَهَرُوا عَلَى قَبْرِكَ الْمُؤَقَّرِ، وَالْحُرَّاسَ صَارُوا كَالْأَمْوَاتِ، وَمَرِيَمَ وَقَفَتْ عِنْدَ الْقَبْرِ طَالِبَةً جَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ، فَسَبَّيْتَ الْجَحِيمَ وَلَمْ تُجَرَّبْ مِنْهَا، وَصَادَفْتَ الْبَتُولَ مَانِحاً الْحَيَاةَ. فَيَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

### The Entrance Hymn for Ordinary Sundays (Tone Two)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

هَلُمُّوا لِنَسْجُدَ وَنَرْكَعَ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَلِكِنَا وَإِلَهِنَا. خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ، هَلِّلُوبَا.

~ After the Small Entrance ~

### Resurrectional Apolytikion (Tone Six)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

إِنَّ الْقُوَّاتِ الْمَلَائِكِيَّةَ ظَهَرُوا عَلَى قَبْرِكَ الْمُؤَقَّرِ، وَالْحُرَّاسَ صَارُوا كَالْأَمْوَاتِ، وَمَرِيَمَ وَقَفَتْ عِنْدَ الْقَبْرِ طَالِبَةً جَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ، فَسَبَّيْتَ الْجَحِيمَ وَلَمْ تُجَرَّبْ مِنْهَا، وَصَادَفْتَ الْبَتُولَ مَانِحاً الْحَيَاةَ. فَيَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Apolytikion of St. Clement of Ancyra (Tone Four)

Thou didst blossom forth for the faithful, O most sacred Clement, as a branch of holiness, a staff of contest, a most sacred flower, and a sweet God-given fruit. But as a fellow-sufferer of martyrs and a fellow-prelate of hierarchs, intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

لَقَدْ نَبَتْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَا كَلِّيَّ الشَّرَفِ الْكَلِيمَنُصُسُ، كَرَمَةً بِرٍّ وَغُصْنَ جِهَادٍ وَزَهْرَةً طَهْرٍ، وَثَمَرًا لَذِيذًا مَنَحَهُ اللَّهُ. فَالآنَ إِذْ أَنْكَ شَرِيكَ لِلشُّهَدَاءِ فِي الْجِهَادِ وَلِرُؤُسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ فِي الْعَرْشِ، تَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نُفُوسَنَا.

Apolytikion of Saint George (Tone Four)

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

بِمَا أَنَّكَ لِلْمَأْسُورِينَ مُحَرَّرٌ وَمُعْتِقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وَلِلْمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشُّهَدَاءِ جَاورِجِيوسُ اللَّابِسُ الظَّفَرِ تَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ فِي خَلَاصِ نُفُوسِنَا.

Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ (Tone One)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهِ، يَا مَنْ مِمَوْلِدِهِ قَدَسَ الْمُسْتَوْدَعَ الْبَتُولِيَّ، وَبَارَكَ يَدَيَّ سَمْعَانَ كَمَا لَاقَ، وَأَذَرَكْنَا الْآنَ وَخَلَّصَنَا؛ إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ فِي الْحُرُوبِ، وَأَيِّدِ الْمُلُوكَ الَّذِينَ أَحَبَبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord, my God.

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:15-17)**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثِكَ.  
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرَحُ وَإِلَى إِلَهِي أَتَضَرَّعُ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى تِيمُوثَاوَسَ

يَا وَلَدِي تِيمُوثَاوَسَ، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَمُسْتَحَقَّةٌ كُلُّ قَبُولٍ: أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ جَاءَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ لِيُخَلِّصَ الْخُطَاةَ الَّذِينَ أَوْلَهُمْ أَنَا. لَكِنِّي لِهَذَا رُحِمْتُ: لِيُظْهَرَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ فِيَّ أَنَا أَوَّلًا كُلِّ أَنَاةٍ، مِثَالًا لِلْعَتِيدِينَ أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ لِلْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ. وَمَلِكُ الدُّهُورِ الَّذِي لَا يَفْنَى وَلَا يُرَى، إِلَهُ الْحَكِيمِ وَحْدَهُ، لَهُ الْكَرَامَةُ وَالْمَجْدُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدُّهُورِ. آمِينَ.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقِدِّيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ بِالْقُرْبِ مِنْ أَرِيحَا، كَانَ أَعْمَى جَالِسًا عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ يَسْتَعْطِي. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْجَمْعَ مُجْتَازًا، سَأَلَ مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا، فَأَخْبَرُوهُ أَنَّ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيَّ مُجْتَازٌ. فَصَرَخَ قَائِلًا: "يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!" فَانْتَهَرَهُ الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ لِيَسْكُتَ، أَمَّا هُوَ فَصَرَخَ أَكْثَرَ كَثِيرًا: "يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!" فَوَقَّفَ يَسُوعُ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ. وَلَمَّا اقْتَرَبَ سَأَلَهُ قَائِلًا: "مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَفْعَلَ بِكَ؟" فَقَالَ: "يَا سَيِّدُ، أَنْ أَبْصِرَ." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "أَبْصِرْ؛ إِيمَانُكَ قَدْ شَفَاكَ." وَفِي الْحَالِ أَبْصَرَ، وَتَبِعَهُ وَهُوَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ. وَجَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ إِذْ رَأَوْا سَبَّحُوا اللَّهَ.



# THE SYNAXARION



On January 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the **holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and the holy Martyr Agathangelos.**

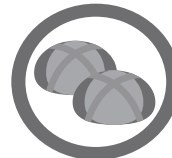
Clement was born in 258 in the city of Ancyra in Galatia of a pagan father and a Christian mother. Clement was so famous because of his virtuous living that he was elected bishop of Ancyra at the age of 20. In his young years, he attained the wisdom of a mature adult, and by great restraint he tamed and conquered his body. During the reign of Diocletian, he was tortured so horribly and spent 28 years in difficulties and in dungeons. Clement considered it a great honor to be tortured because, as he said, “even the mouth of my Lord Jesus Christ was also beaten and struck in the face and behold, I, the unworthy, now became worthy of that!” Finally, he and Saint Agathangelos of Rome were beheaded together in 312.

On this day, we also commemorate **Paulinos, bishop of Nola.** By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen



**TODAY**  
January 23, 2022

**EPISTLE READER**  
English: Jackson King  
Arabic: Elie El Ojeil



## HOLY BREAD OFFERING

<b>TODAY</b> January 23	-Cathedral Council For the good health of the Cathedral Family -Drs. Hani & Ferial Jumean For the good health of their family -Shirley Husson For the good health of Michael, Diana, and Michael Alexander, and in memory of +Michel Husson
January 30	-Sunday School Staff For the good health of their students and staff celebrating birthdays on January
February 06	-Osama and Nadia Jahjah For the good health of their family especially Farid, on the occasion of his birthday
February 13	- OPEN

## COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR

<b>TODAY</b> January 23	- Saint George Cathedral Council On occasion of the General Assembly
January 30	- OPEN
February 06	-Osama and Nadia Jahjah For the good health of their family especially Farid, on the occasion of his birthday
February 13	- OPEN

The Holy Bread and Coffee Hour are ministries of the Antiochian Women. Please see the coordinator of these ministries, Mrs. Salma Zacur, to inquire on scheduling and requirements.

## General Assembly

We will have our St. George Cathedral General Assembly today immediately after the Divine Liturgy.  
May God guide us and protect our Cathedral family!







## ALTAR VIGIL CANDLE

The Candle remains lit for an entire month on the Holy Altar. There is no fee required to offer the Altar Vigil Candle. The offering is by donation only. Please see schedule below (in order of submission by month).

January	Mouna Dahlan & Family Shammaseh Pat Nimer & Family In loving memory of Archdeacon +David Nimer
February	Mouna Dahlan & Family George & Widaa Khoury & Family In loving memory of +Ibrahim Khoury
March	Mouna Dahlan & Family
April	Mouna Dahlan & Family

## PRAYER LIST

Prayer List of the Living	Prayer List of the +Departed
<b>The Cathedral Council Officers and members; the entire Cathedral Family; Drs. Hani and Ferial Jumean &amp; family; Shirley Husson, Michael, Diana, and Michael Alexander; Jeanette Haddad-Stern; The Entire Sayfie Family; Mouna and Laura Dahlan, Wadih Mabardi, Aregash Gebriel, Susan Panayotti Elias, George and Charme Elias, Virginia Elias, Gwynn Elias, Dr. Richard Elias, Dr. Lewis and Deanna Elias, Julian Kazal, Jean Joseph, Elias Dababneh, Martha Alfonso, Tala Ayyad, Kiwan Khoury; Najat Zacur, Marwan Farah, Yolanda Warwar-Feanny, Salam Al-Issa, Rita Zaidan.</b>	<b>+Michel Husson +Archdeacon David Nimer +Emile Farah +Dr. Eugene Sayfie +Samira Abou Rjaily +Dr. Maurice Bardawil +Ibrahim Khoury +Michael Dahlan +Jorge Diab Zacur +Kareem Zakharia +Asmerom Beyene</b>



# Cathedral Calendar



<b>Today:</b>	Orthros (Matins)	9:15 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	<b>NO CLASSES TODAY</b>
	<b>General Assembly</b>	<b>Immediately After Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Tue., Jan. 25</b>	Cathedral Council Officers Meeting	6:30 p.m.
<b>Thu., Jan. 27</b>	Antiochian Women Movie Outing	5:00 p.m.
<b>Fri., Jan. 28</b>	Teen SOYO Bowling Outing	6:30 p.m.
<b>Sat., Jan. 29</b>	Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.

## Save the Date!

Sunday School Strawberry Picking	February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
DOMSE Winter Retreat (NEW SCHEDULE)	February 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022

**“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27**

*We would like to congratulate Basel and Hiba Zacur on the baptism of their daughters Camilla and Christal, which took place on Saturday, January 15, 2022, in Jacksonville, FL. May God grant Camilla and Christal many years!*

معمودية  
مباركة!



*Saint George Cathedral*  
**Antiochian Women**

# FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS

*Matthew 17:20*

JOIN US IN PRAYER

THE SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S PRAYER CIRCLE  
WILL UNITE IN PRAYER

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE SICK AND THE SUFFERING,  
AND THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED

EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 9:00 P.M. (INDEPENDENTLY). BE ON THE  
LOOKOUT FOR A TEXT MESSAGE WITH THE LINK TO OUR PRAYER CIRCLE!

320 Palermo Ave, Coral Gables, FL  
AW@StGMiami.org | 305.444.6541



St. George Cathedral

SOYO

# Bowling Night

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 | 6:30 PM

BIRD BOWL

9275 SW 40TH ST, MIAMI,  
FL 33165

**FREE FOR ALL SOYO MEMBERS  
BOWLING & DINNER INCLUDED**

please RSVP through SOYO Whatsapp group chat

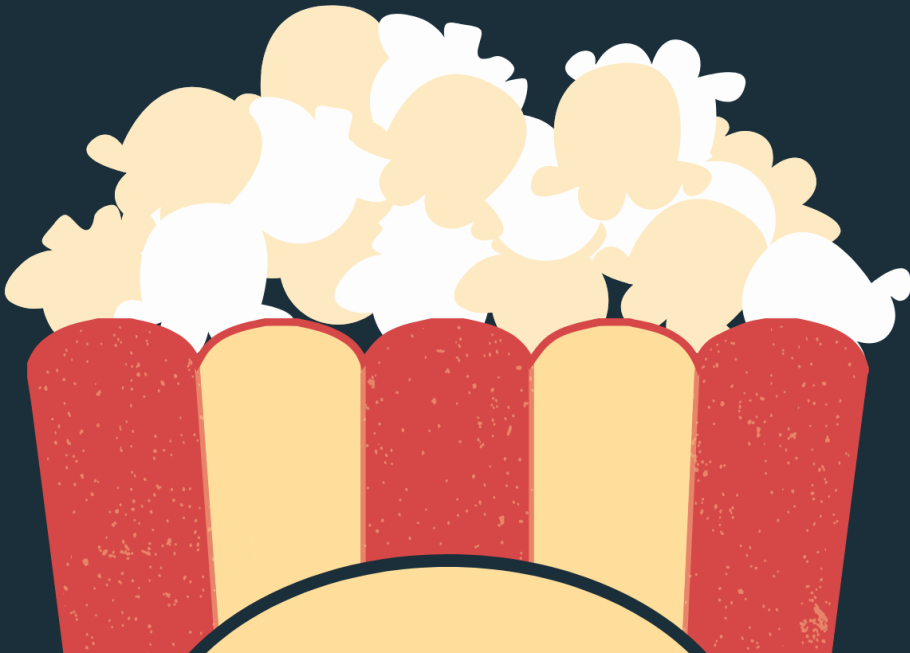


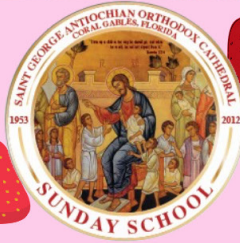
SAINT GEORGE CATHEDRAL  
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

# AW MOVIE NIGHT

AMC Tamiami 18  
11865 SW 26 ST, Miami, FL 33175

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022  
AT 7:00PM





Saint George Cathedral  
JOIN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR



# Strawberry Picking



Saturday, February 12, 2022  
at 10:30am sharp

Meet at Knaus Berry Farm  
15980 SW 248th St Homestead, FL 33031



**OPEN FOR ALL!**

**\*Fee per pound of  
strawberries picked**



320 Palermo Ave Coral Gables, FL | 305.444.6541 | [SundaySchool@StGMiami.org](mailto:SundaySchool@StGMiami.org)





# Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral

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## 2022 Stewardship Commitment Form

*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:7)*

**Step 1: Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2: If any changes, please use Membership Information Form to update all personal information.**

Membership Information Form located at the church front entrance / or ask for a Stewardship Committee member

**Step 3: Know your Membership Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4: Be a Steward! – Share your Time and Talent by volunteering for a ministry! (Visit Website)**

**Step 5: Be a Steward! – Share your Treasure by making your Stewardship Commitment TODAY!**

Please consider "prayerfully and sincerely" about your 2022 Stewardship Commitment.

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we offer the following 2022 'WEEKLY' Stewardship Commitment (Please Select):

☐ \$20/Week ☐ \$30/Week ☐ \$50/Week ☐ \$100/Week ☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_/Week  
((\$1,040 Annually) (\$1,560 Annually) (\$2,600 Annually) (\$5,200 Annually) (\$\_\_\_\_\_/Annually)

**Step 6: Please complete Payment Information below**

Payment Options: (please select option A, B, or C)

☒ A - ☐ Credit Card (please complete the following credit card information)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Name on Credit Card (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

CSC code (back of card): \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code of billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of credit card holder (used to send credit card receipt): \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization: By completing and signing this Credit Card Authorization form, I authorize Saint GEORGE CATHEDRAL to charge my Credit Card the amount stated below for my 2022 Stewardship Pledge unless I provide a written cancellation.

Please select:

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_/month (recurring donation)

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ one-time donation

Credit Card Authorization Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ B - ☐ Check/Cash (check is safer and better for your records and the Church records)

☒ C - ☐ One-time check enclosed

**Step 7: Please sign below**

By signing this form, I commit myself / family as a Steward of Saint George Cathedral.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: For the General Assembly voting privilege in 2023, this form must be completed and 2022 pledge fulfilled.

CONFIDENTIAL: May not be distributed or reproduced / For Authorized Parish Personnel only

Please return your completed form to the Cathedral Office promptly.

For office use only Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date entered: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH

*Editor's note: The following is from a booklet published by our Archdiocese in 1956. Some of the references are admittedly culturally dated because they reflect the circumstances of the 1950's in America. We print it here because it shows that the vision of our Church hierarchy for church membership and leadership has remained consistent. In the past we printed documents of St. Raphael expressing the same Orthodox vision for the Church on these American shores. This unsigned document is from the office, and I believe the pen, of Metropolitan ANTONY (Bashir).*

A sunny deck and a steamer chair and nothing to do but lie in it, with the sea to watch, and the throb of distant engines lulling you to sleep, and your every comfort cared for – that is all well enough for a week or two. But would you be willing to sail the seas your whole life long as nothing but a passenger? The boredom of it would prove intolerable. There are thousands of men who spend their lives in sailing the seas, but they are members of the crews of the ships that bear them, alert with interest in their work and proud of their skill. The officer on duty on the bridge, the steersman, the engineer, each knows he is helping to make the great ship go. The trouble with many church members is that they remain mere passengers, year in, year out. They never find any way to help to make the ship to go. They are mere baggage, and sooner or later they find themselves bored by the voyage. In this list of duties of a church member to the church let us put first one duty which, if it is performed, should sooner or later involve most of the other duties.

## FIND SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE CHURCH

Do not be content merely to sit in a pew. “That which is not expressed, dies.” And Orthodox Christianity finds precious little expression in mere pewsitting. Do something in person. Write checks if you can, but never let that take the place of firsthand service in the work of your parish. Are you an accountant? Somewhere there is bookkeeping to be done and done in a better way than it has ever been done before. There are charts to be made to visualize for the members the budget and work of the church. Are you a writer, or editor, or advertising man, or have you literary ability? Find how publicity can be made more effective in your parish. Volunteer to edit the calendar, or a weekly or monthly bulletin or parish paper to be mailed to the parishioners. Are you a stenographer? There are always letters, minutes, addressing and mailing of notices and bulletins. Have you artistic ability? Think of what attractive posters might do to call attention to the meetings and work of the church. Note improvements needed in decoration of Sunday School rooms and meeting hall. Have you musical ability? Somewhere in your parish it is needed – in an orchestra, or in the choir of the church, or in a junior choir, or in special programs. Have you dramatic ability? Those in charge of young people's work will be glad to have your help. Are you a carpenter or a mason? Somewhere in the church is an improvement that the trustees will be glad to have attended to. Are you a business man or lawyer or banker? There is heavy work each year in the financial canvass and in the making of budgets. The priest knows people facing business trouble, who need some disinterested person to help them to see through their difficulties.

Are you a physician or dentist? Doubtless you do much charity work already. But the priest occasionally has cases of distress laid on his shoulders, and would be glad to know that you are willing to do needed work from time to time as a member of the parish and the Church's ministry. Women with homes rather than businesses will find waiting for them such work as helping with the social program for the young people, including the furnishing of homes for entertainments; calling on new members, invalids, and old people; and befriending friendless persons . . . an experience which will prove immensely broadening and interesting. Men are needed from time to time as ushers, and women to take charge of the church kitchens and sometimes see that the church is given that kind of housecleaning which not one male sexton in a hundred is capable of conceiving, let alone of carrying into effect. Flowers need to be furnished for the Altar. Altar linens and coverings need to be made and cleaned. Decorations need to be made for special occasions. Phoning and addressing sometimes threaten to consume hours desperately needed by the priest for the preparation of services, sermons, and other duties. Nurseries maintained during the Divine Liturgy will allow parents of young children to attend. There are old people and invalids who will be glad to attend church if someone will drive them there and home again. There are women's aid societies and men's brotherhoods needing loyal workers.

We have left to the last the most important part of the work of the church, that of the Church School. For, "what shall it profit the Church if it gain the whole world and lose the coming generation?" Teachers are needed as well as substitutes, secretaries of records and supplies, musicians, and leaders of young people's clubs, Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and guilds. Many parishes are looking also for older folk to act as counselors to young people and older boys and girls in working out their own programs. There is probably a summer Church School in June. If you feel unprepared for such duties as these, you may receive the necessary help and training from your pastor. For young people, the obvious field of service open to them is in the working with young people of their own age and also with boys and girls who are somewhat younger. Often the best possible leader for a group of boys and girls is someone only "a few jumps" ahead of them in experience. Such a leader may require advice and help from older folk, but often only such a one can supply the understanding and enthusiasm needed. And often the willingness of a younger person to engage in such work will prove more impressive to boys and girls than the volunteering of some older person. Church and Vacation Schools, Scouting, youth groups, and other such organizations can be immensely encouraged by the leadership of young people. Young boys and men can be of untold help to the priest in the worship services by becoming servers or "Altar Boys." Teen-age boys sometimes think they have "outgrown" the position of server . . . but one can never be too old to serve in the Sanctuary at the corporate worship of Almighty God. "Silver and gold have I none," said St. Peter: "but what I have, that give I thee." Find what ability you have and give it. The first thing the church needs from you is active service. If you give it, you will find yourself, not a bored passenger, but an alert, enthusiastic member of the crew.

(Article to be continued next week!)

**THE WORD**



# THE THEOPHANY AND THE BLESSING OF OUR HOMES

**O**n January 6th, we celebrated the services for the Great Feast of Theophany (عيد الغطاس), in which we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also prayed the service of the “Great Sanctification of Water”, which marks the beginning of the house blessing season. Traditionally, the blessed waters are used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to the homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence, and re-dedicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.

Due the current COVID-19 *Omicron* surge, the blessing of the homes will take place in the following manner:

1. The **house blessing form** MUST be filled out and submitted (either online or physically - see next page).
2. A follow-up call will take place from the Church Office to confirm the appointment.
3. Fr. Joseph will contact you before arriving to your home (at least 15 minutes prior to arrival). He will call you once more when he is in front of the house.

Traditionally, it has been a common practice of handing the priest an honorarium (and not GRATUITY) for the service rendered. This has lead to the misconception that if one cannot give the priest an honorarium, it is better to not to have the priest over to come and bless one's home. As mentioned above, it is a misconception and it should be clarified: there is no “fee” attached to the blessing of one's home! It is the priest's DUTY, and therefore he must attend to his flock's needs -in this case, the need of having one's home blessed. The official Clergy Manual of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America states the following under Section II: The Duties and Responsibilities of the Clergy / D. Duties Specific to Pastors: #4: The pastor MUST SEE that the home of EACH PARISHIONER is visited and blessed each year during the days following Epiphany or other Major Feast Days where the weather conditions are permissible. Therefore, please, let nothing stand in between the priest and the fulfillment of his priestly duty of blessing your home.

We thank you for your understanding regarding these protocols. They have been put into place out of concern for the well-being of our Cathedral Family. The last thing Fr. Joseph would want is to realize that one of his pastoral visits brought about an exposure (COVID-19) to a family rather than a Blessing.

May you all have a blessed Theophany season!



# HOUSE BLESSING FORM

\*\*\* SUBMIT THIS FORM TO SCHEDULE A HOUSE BLESSING TO FR. JOSEPH AT THE END OF LITURGY \*\*\*

1. Full Name (First and Last): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Cellphone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Preferred (Tentative\*) Day of Week: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Preferred Time of Day: \_\_\_\_\_

6. At the time of filling out this form, do you or anyone in your household have any of the following symptoms (Circle any that apply)?

Fever or Chills	Dry Cough	Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Muscle or Body Aches	Headache	New Loss of Taste or Smell	Sore Throat
Congestion or Runny Nose			

7. Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days (Circle the one that applies)?

Yes                      No

8. Are you or anyone in your household waiting for the results of a COVID-19 PCR Test?

Yes                      No

9. Please Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this House Blessing Scheduling Form signed, I acknowledge the risks entailed to Fr. Joseph's potential visit to bless our home during this current COVID-19 Pandemic. I willingly consent to his visit and waive him or Saint George Cathedral from any responsibility.

\*The exact date and time will be confirmed by the office once the form is submitted to the Church Office.



## *Contact Information*



Office Hours: Monday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Address: 320 Palermo Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134

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For Pastoral Emergencies, please call or text:

Fr. Joseph Hector Abouid at (708)415-7050

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