

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

Tel.: 915-584-9100

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REV. FATHER JOSEPH ABOUID, PASTOR

The Very Reverend Father Jehad T. Michael, Pastor Emeritus

“And the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”. Acts 11:26

December 17, 2017

Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael;
Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk
and his disciple Habakkuk the deacon of Belgrade

TONE 3

EOTHINON 6

Saturday Service: Vespers 5:00P.M.

Sunday Service: Orthros (Matins) 9:15 AM, Followed by the Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Jamie Isaac

Ushers: Dr. Hassan Salloum, Dr. Maha Salloum, Alexis Gerena, Geoffrey Borschow

Altar Boys: All are welcome to serve.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GEORGE THE GREAT-MARTYR (TONE TWO)

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.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

THE SYNAXARION

On December 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; and the New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk and his disciple Habakkuk the deacon of Belgrade. On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Holy Bread will be offered by:



Skee Rizk in memory of Peter Rizk and Tom and Regina Jacobs as well as for the health of the Rizk, Ferris, Samore, Al-Hanna, and Nasser families.

Salma Isaac for health of my family and in celebration of the December birthdays in my family and in loving memory of our parents Ed and Kathy Bashur; James Maluff.

Anonymous

DONATIONS

Bryan & Annette Haddad for the health of Choir & Sacred Music Chanters

Jamie Isaac for the health of Lon Silagi & Blanca Anaipakos; for the health & success of James, Joseph, Tiffany & Families

Salma Isaac for the health of James & Michelle Elias, Omar, Anne, Amira & Malik; Happy Birthday: Grand babies, James (9th) and Alyssa (20th), Blanca Anaipakos (4th), Kingston (14th) and Jamie (17th) of December.

In Loving Memory of Mariam Azar Hanna

George & Judy Hanna Sami & Anntoinette Esper Jamie Isaac
Drs. Hassan & Maha Salloum Ibrahim & Layla Salloum David & Dalal Young

In Memory of Edward Isaac

Sammy & Kimberly Michael

Archdiocese Dues:

Salah, Nada & Angela Al-Hanna (2017 & 2018), Christine Argeanas, Dr. Sandra Edwards
Tony, Lisa, & Mike Dayoub

Thought for the Day

"The Fathers have declared the singing of psalms to be a weapon, prayer to be a wall, and honest tears to be a bath ... without which no one subject to passions will see the Lord." -- St. John Climacus

Teen Soyo Clothes Drive All

Clothes due On December 17th

We are collecting clothes in good condition throughout November 26---December 17th. All types of clothes are acceptable, including shirts, shorts, pants, jackets, etc.



2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VOTING MEMBERS

Beloved St. George Parishioners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This letter is to notify you of the upcoming Annual General Parish Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on ***Sunday, January 21, 2018*** immediately after the Divine Liturgy in the Church's Summit Hall. A meal will be provided.

It is very important that all Church Members attend in order to review and discuss all the important issues concerning our beloved Holy Church, including financial statements, proposed budget for 2018, organizational reports, and election of New Parish Council Members to serve for 2018-2019. All parishioners are reminded to make sure that their 2017 Membership Pledges are up-to-date to be eligible to vote. The minimum financial contribution to have been met is of at least **\$250.00 per person age 18 and older**, along with a payment of **thirty-five (\$35.00) per Baptized soul** to the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America as a yearly commitment.

According to the St. George Constitution and By-laws, the criteria for you to be eligible to vote are:

- (a) Be Eighteen (18) years of age and over
- (b) In a good canonical standing
- (c) Have Been Baptized and accepted in the membership of the Holy Orthodox Church.... Practice its faith and discipline ... Attend worship services on a regular basis ... Partake of the Holy Sacraments of the Church
- (d) Have met the minimum requirement of pledged contribution as prescribed by the Parish Council by having "paid his/her fair share of pledges".

In order to be nominated and/or elected for the St. George Parish Council, per Constitution and By-Laws:

" ... A candidate must be Twenty-One (21) years of age or over, have been a voting Member of St. George Church for a period of one (1) year, and have fulfilled the Canonical Requirements of the Orthodox Faith. A candidate to St. George Parish Council must be in good standing spiritually, and have fulfilled his/her financial requirements as prescribed by the Parish Council."

We look forward to seeing all of you at our **St. George Church Annual General Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2018**. May God Bless you and your families always, and grant you strength to serve His Holy Church faithfully and diligently, for His glory always!

Yours in Christ,

Tiffany Joudi

Parish Council Secretary



SAINT GEORGE

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

EL PASO - TEXAS

Member Pledge Form for the Coming Year January 2018 – December 2018

(This form **MUST** be returned to the Church Office by December 31.)

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce: then your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will be bursting with wine.” Proverbs 3: 9-10
“Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10: 8

Name(s) of person or couple (household) completing this form (one form per married couple or single individual age 18 and over):

Financial Offerings

After prayerful consideration of God’s teachings and the blessings He has bestowed upon our household/me, our/my pledge to St. George Church for the coming year is \$ _____ *

I/We prefer to pay our pledge (check one):

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- One annual payment

I/We would prefer to have envelopes in order to pay this offering in cash and/or checks.

*A minimum contribution amount of **\$250.00 per person** has been established from previous years by the General Assembly of Voting Membership (Pledge Members) for budgeting purposes to help cover the expenditures of the parish for each new fiscal year. These figures would translate to a contribution of **\$5 a Sunday** per person each week. By meeting (or exceeding) your minimum amount of contribution, you automatically become eligible to be nominated for the Parish Council, and to vote at the General Assembly of Voting Membership. **The pledge is a spiritual contract. There is no maximum, demonstrating your commitment to the Church and Her life. Please Note:** This amount will be handled with **EXTREME CONFIDENTIALITY!** No one, except the **priest** and the **treasurer** will have access to this sensitive piece of information. Also, they are **not allowed** to disclose the amount of your pledge to anyone, only the status of the pledge (fulfilled/unfulfilled) to the **Nominations Committee**. Failure to fulfill your pledge by the end of the year will automatically render your pledge to an **“unfulfilled”** status and thus, you cannot vote during the General Meeting nor are you eligible to be nominated for Parish Council duties.

“And they were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26)



SAINT GEORGE

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
EL PASO - TEXAS

Time and Talents

In addition to my financial offering, I offer my service to the community to assist in the following areas – check all that may apply (Married couples, please list individual names for each selected responsibility):

- Adult Education _____
- Almsgiving/Helping the Needy _____
- Altar Servers _____
- Choir _____
- Church School _____
- Greeters/Ushers _____
- Grounds _____
- Holy Bread _____
- Hospitality _____
- Facility _____
- Church Decoration _____
- Outreach/Evangelism _____
- Website/I.T. _____
- Youth Activities _____

Other areas not listed:

Your Name	Role
_____	: _____
_____	: _____
_____	: _____

"And they were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)



Happy New Year

Mark your calendar for December 31st

Bring an appetite and your thirst

We're having a big blowout

You heard it hear first

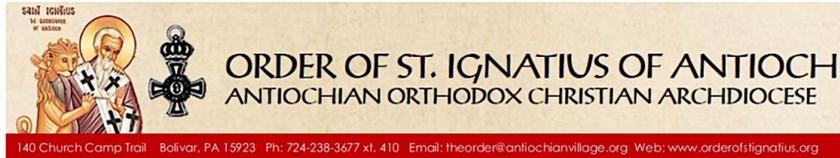
You are invited to

New Year's Eve Bash

At 9:00 PM

Su Casa Restaurant

- **RSVP: Raed Aldouri – 252-8815, Tony Jarjor - 820-8721 & Suha Jarjor - 867-7669**
- **Call Sylvana to sign up for food dish 355-4921**
- **\$25 per family which includes one wine bottle, security & other expenses and BYOB**



What

Clergy	\$304,117
Retired Clergy Housing Allowance	\$270,000
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$11,250
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$22,867
Archdiocese Youth	\$397,913
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$190,000
Youth Ministry	\$120,000
SOYO Special Olympics	\$8,000
SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$25,392
Christian Education	\$39,996
College Conference	\$14,525
Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$329,988
Missions & Evangelism	\$129,996
Planning & Future Development	\$75,000
Parish Development / Mission Grants	\$24,996
Internet Ministry	\$99,996
Other Grants	\$40,000
Project Mexico	\$10,000
Christ the Savior School	\$15,000
Treehouse, FOCUS, Prison Ministries	\$15,000
Order Administrative	\$153,921
Materials & Wages	\$153,921

Figures represent part of the actual expenses for Fiscal Year 2017

Why

So our children can pray, sing, laugh and even cry with one another as they grow stronger in their Orthodox Faith and closer to our Lord ... *together.*
- Summer Camp Scholarships

To help build the foundation and provide the essential tools of knowledge, relationships and memories that help our children remain steadfast in their Orthodox faith.
- SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training & Youth Ministry

To make sure orphaned children feel loved and safe, and promise them that everything is going to be alright and that they are not alone.
- Project Mexico

To provide guidance, reassurance and compassion, to unwed mothers who choose life rather than abortion.
- Treehouse Ministries

To help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. But even more, express our gratitude to our spiritual leader and friend who's been with us during all of our times of joy and sorrow.
Retired Clergy Housing Allowance

To help plant the seeds of Orthodoxy throughout North America revealing the "True Faith" and ensuring the Church's growth for generations
- Department of Missions & Evangelism

Knight & Dame

- \$500 Annually
- \$41.67 Monthly
- \$1.37 Daily

Junior Knight & Dame

- Ages 18-26 Only
- \$300 Annually
 - \$25 Monthly
 - \$0.82 Daily
 - At age 27, converts to Knight or Dame

Knight Commander Dame Commander

- \$1,000 Annually
- \$83.33 Monthly
- \$2.73 Daily

Life

- \$15,000 Total Gift
- Payment Options:
 - 100% Lump Sum
 - \$5,000 per year over 3 consecutive Years **or**
 - \$416.67 per month for 3 consecutive years
- **Life Upgrade***

Metropolitan

- \$30,000 Total Gift
- Payment Options:
 - 100% Lump Sum
 - \$10,000 per year for 3 consecutive years **or**
 - \$833.33 per month for 3 consecutive years
- **Metropolitan Upgrade****

Life and Metropolitan gifts are invested in an endowment and only the earnings are spent each year making it a gift that will live on into perpetuity.

***Life Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 15 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Life Member for \$10,000 paid in a lump sum or over a two-year period.

****Metropolitan Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 15 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Metropolitan Member for \$20,000 paid over a three-year period. Life members who have fulfilled their initial Life member gift may upgrade to the Metropolitan level for \$10,000 paid in a lump sum or over a three-year period.

All lump sum, annual, or monthly payment methods can be made via EFT or Credit Card

ST. IGNATIUS ORDER MEMBERS: remember to wear your Cross ON SUNDAY!

Nativity, New Year's & Theophany Liturgical Services Schedule

Day	Time	Service
Sunday of the Genealogy of Christ, a.k.a. Sunday before the Nativity		
Friday 12/22/2017	9:30 a.m.	Nativity Royal Hours (<u>NO LITURGY</u>)
Saturday 12/23/2017	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday 12/24/2017	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Matins Divine Liturgy
Nativity of Christ - Christmas Services		
Sunday 12/24/2017	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers (for the Nativity)
Monday 12/25/2017	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Nativity Matins Divine Liturgy
Leave-Taking of the Nativity of Christ		
Saturday 12/30/2017	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday 12/31/2017	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Matins Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Circumcision of Christ & Commemoration of St. Basil the Great		
Monday 01/01/2017	10:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Matins Divine Liturgy
Theophany of Christ – Paramon of the Feast & Blessing of the Waters		
Friday 01/05/2017	9:30 a.m.	Royal Hours / Vespereal Liturgy
Saturday 01/06/2017	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Matins Divine Liturgy (Followed by Blessing of the Waters)

ST. GEORGE TEEN SOYO CHRISTMAS RETREAT "KEEPIN' IT REAL IN TODAY'S WORLD!"

DATE: DECEMBER 28TH-30TH

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS RETREAT
CENTER (LAS CRUCES, NM)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$120

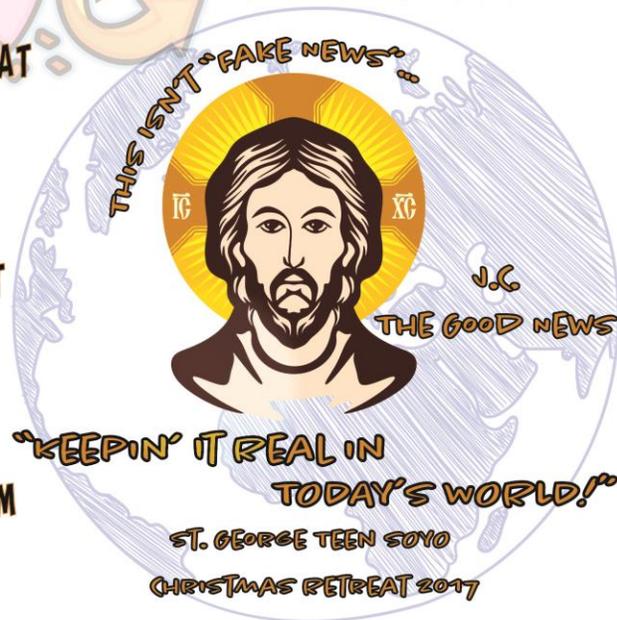
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
OUR TEEN SOYO ADVISOR

ALEXIE BAINE AT

EMAIL: ALEXIE.BAINE@GMAIL.COM

TELEPHONE: (703)944-4683

SPEAKER:
FR. ALEXANDER MACKOUL



*SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE (PLEASE SEE FR. JOSEPH FOR MORE INFORMATION)

SPEAKER:
FR. ALEXANDER MACKOUL



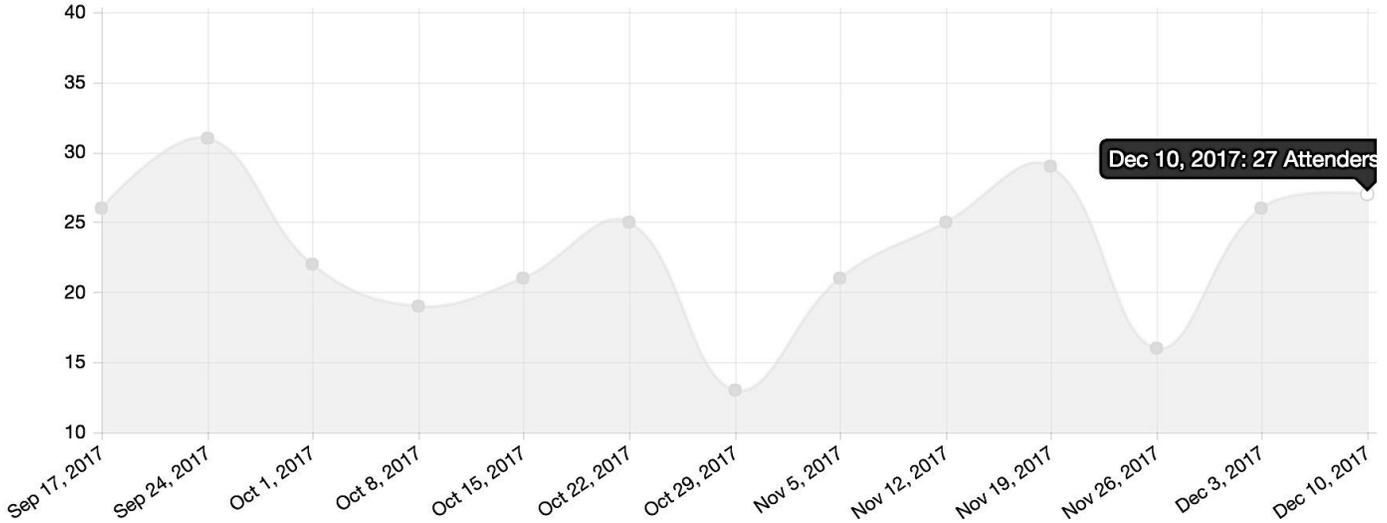
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ST. GEORGE CHURCH SCHOOL

Attendance is up by 17.4%

Compared to the Past 3 Months ▾

People Attended This Event



Pre- School	Kinder – 1 st	2nd – 3rd	4th – 5th	6th – 7th	8th – 12th
Kingston Joudi Anastasia Salinas	Nia Isaac Joseph Salloum Larissa Alyoussef Majd Al Dayoub	Ophelia Adkins Elias Al Dayoub Wik Brooke Atticus Denny Abel Eyasu Binyam Eyasu Nigel Rangel	Kendall Olivas Finlay Adkins Judah Denny	Sami Odeh Rediet Eyasu	Angela Al-Hanna Jonathan El Ojeil Anthony Jarjour Johnny Odeh Joseph Odeh Boris Salinas Teresa Salloum James Shaheen Zoe Tsoukalas

We thank all the parents for bringing their children to Sunday School! Attendance is great! We encourage the rest to keep bringing their children this coming Sunday!

St. George Christmas Pageant

The St. George Sunday School will present its annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M. in the Church. It will be immediately followed by the Sunday School's annual Christmas dinner & fundraising Christmas auction in the Summit Church hall. Please join us as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. All family & friends of St. George Church are welcome to attend. Pageant Dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 16, @ 9:45 A.M. in the Sunday School. Parents, please make sure that all the students, who are participating, are ready to put on their costumes & go into rehearsal @ 10:00 A.M. *sharp*.

Baptism of Baby
Aidan Emmanuel Abouid
Jan. 6, 2018

Immediately after the Festal Divine Liturgy for
Holy Theophany

You are cordially
invited to celebrate
with the family!



Refreshments provided at the Summit Mini-Hall after the Baptism!

CONTACT INFORMATION

For Pastoral needs and/or Emergencies contact Fr. Joseph Abouid at:

Office: 915-584-9100 **Cell phone:** 708-415-7050 **Email:** pastor@stgeorge-elpaso.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hospital & Pastoral Visits (During the morning or evenings – Please contact Fr. Joseph to schedule the visits or in case of any emergency at any time).

Confessions: Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. (or during the week by appointment).

Deadline for Holy Bread Offering and any Bulletin Announcement is Thursday.