



SAINT GEORGE

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
EL PASO - TEXAS

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America**

**His Grace Bishop Basil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America**

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

Tel.: 915-584-9100 www.stgeorge-elpaso.org office@stgeorge-elpaso.org Fax. 915-760-5547

December 31, 2017

**Sunday before Theophany of Christ, Which Falls on the Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the
Nativity of Christ**

VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR ZOTIKOS OF ROME, THE
FRIEND OF ORPHANS; BLESSED THEOPHYLACT, ARCHBISHOP OF OCHRID

TONE 4

EOTHINON 7

Saturday Service: Vespers 5:00P.M.

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

Epistle: Phillip Youngblood

Ushers: Bryan Haddad, Annette Haddad, Rose Beard, Dr. Hassan Salloum

Altar Boys: All are welcome to serve.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

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

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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany)

*All those on earth worship thee and sing unto Thee: Alleluia to God, O all the earth.**

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

THE SYNAXARION

On December 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Nativity of Christ, and we commemorate our Venerable Mother Melania the Younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos of Rome, the friend of orphans; and Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid. On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Thought for the Day

"The only-begotten Son of God, brethren, begotten in eternity of the Father without a mother, was born in time of a mother without a father. That first begetting is an unfathomable mystery of the Holy Trinity in eternity, and the second is the unfathomable mystery of God's power and love for mankind in time. The greatest mystery in time corresponds to the greatest mystery in eternity." -- St. Nicholai of Zica

Holy Bread will be offered by:



Chris and Tiffany Joudi for the forty-day memorial of her beloved father Edward Isaac.

DONATIONS

Tony Dayoub for the health of Lon Silagi.

Bryan & Annette Haddad for the health of Lon Silagi & Eddie Aziz.

Jamie Isaac for the health of Vanessa Salloum & Lon Silagi.

Jean-Marc & Marisela Salloum wishing Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all the Loving, Faithful Parishioners of St. George.

Laila Schmidt wishing a merry Christmas & happy New Year.

In Loving Memory of Mariam Azar Hanna

Salah & Nada Al-Hanna

Bryan & Annette Haddad

Archdiocese Dues:

Art & Martha & Adrian Hernandez

Lauren Reyes

Nadia Saab

Habib & Mahassen Salloum

Michel & Antwanette and William Shaghoury

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



St. George General Assembly Nominations Notice:

If you, or someone you know, are interested in running for Council Membership and are willing to make the commitment required to fulfill this important obligation, please contact Fr. Joseph-Hector Abouid or any of the members of this year's **Nomination Committee** to provide your nomination: Dr. Raed Aldouri, Tony Dayoub, Dr. Hassan Salloum, Nabil Shaheen, Geoffrey Borschow, or Jamie Isaac.



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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)

Tel: (915)584-9100 / Fax: (915)760-5547
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Website: www.stgeorge-el Paso.org



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Time and Talents

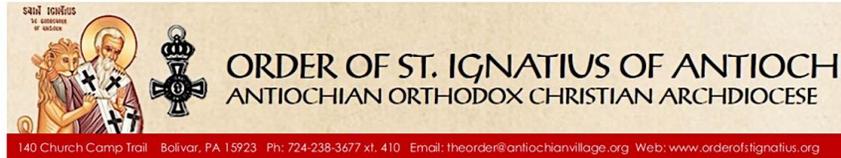
In addition to my financial offering, I offer my service to the community to assist in the following areas – check all that may apply (Married couples, please list individual names for each selected responsibility):

- 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)

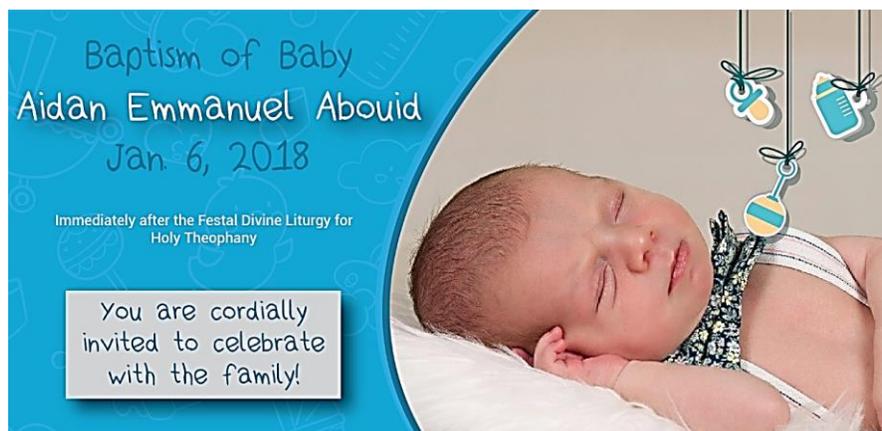


The Order shall be committed and dedicated to serve solely, the Metropolitan Primate & the Archdiocese, and to promote the teaching of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the welfare of the Orthodox Faith. The Order is designed to be an organization of faithful Orthodox Christian men & women of the Archdiocese, 18 years or older, who maintain, on an annual basis, proper spiritual credentials, and financial commitment. As the Order moves into the 4th decade of service to Christ, the members intend to strengthen the spiritual and philanthropic focus. Finally, the Order continues to show the world that member take seriously our Lord's Command to help those who are "hungry, thirsty, naked and in prison" (Matthew 25). All share a common love for Christ & the Church and are willing to work so that the Archdiocese can continue its ministry in such departments as Missions & Evangelism, Youth, Campus, Prison, Education, & Religious Ministries, and Clergy Retirement. Secretaries, executives, factory workers, teachers, givers, those who work at home, young, old etc. are all invited to join this dynamic Order for Christ & His Church

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

New Year's & Theophany Liturgical Services Schedule

Day	Time	Service
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.	Matins
Saturday 01/06/2017	8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Matins Divine Liturgy (Followed by Blessing of the Waters)



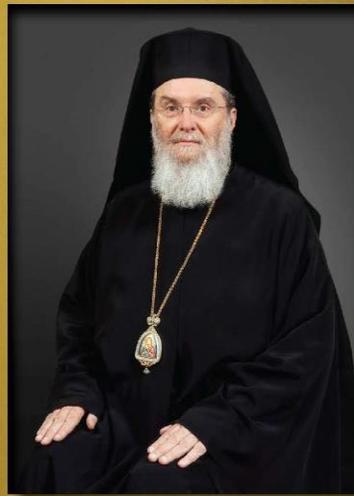
Refreshments provided at the Summit Mini-Hall after the Baptism!

January 1, 2018

Honor Bishop Basil Support Diocesan Missions



Every year, we have the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of St. Basil the Great and honor our own Bishop BASIL by donating to the Bishop BASIL Missions Endowment Fund of our Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America. The Missions Endowment campaign started in 1975 and in 1992 when Bishop BASIL was consecrated the fund was established in his honor to augment financial support for our missionary efforts. Our missionary efforts have changed as our needs have changed. There is a committee now working on a proposal for a traveling priest to pastor some small geographically isolated parishes in our diocese. The income from the endowment could help subsidize this program, enabling this priest to provide spiritual leadership and care to those with no other Orthodox options nearby.



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Contribute by January 31, 2018

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.