



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

January 14, 2018

LEAVE-TAKING OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI AND RAITHU; VIRGIN-MARTYR AGNES; VENERABLE THEODOULOS, SON OF
NEILOS THE WISE OF SINAI; NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND ENLIGHTENER OF GEORGIA;
SABBAS, FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA

TONE 7

EOTHINON 10

Saturday Service: Vespers 5:00 P.M.

Sunday Service: Orthros (Matins) 9:15 A.M., Followed by the Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Kh. Carol El Ojeil

Ushers: Any available faithful

Altar Boys: All are welcome to serve.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

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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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

THE SYNAXARION

On January 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Feast of Theophany, and we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain on Mount Sinai in the reign of Diocletian, and those slain in the days of Neilos the Wise.

In the fourth century, Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the first martyrdom. He tells of how the Saracens attacked his monastery and would have killed all the monks, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them. The second massacre occurred nearly one hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness, St. Neilos the Wise, who miraculously escaped. The attackers permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They also thanked God for sparing them and glorified God for glorifying their departed brethren.

On this day, we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain at Raithu. On the same day of the first attack at Sinai, the Blemmyes martyred forty Fathers at Raithu on the shores of the Red Sea. Igumen Paul exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and pure hearts.

On January 14, we also commemorate the Virgin-martyr Agnes; Venerable Theodoulos, son of Neilos the Wise; Nina, equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of Georgia; and Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen

.Thought of the Day

"To stand guard over the heart, to stand with the mind in the heart, to descend from the head into the heart - all these are one and the same thing. The core of the work lies in the concentration of attention and the standing before the invisible Lord, not in the head but within the chest, close to the heart and in the heart. When the divine warmth comes, all this will be clear." -- St. Theophan the Recluse



Holy Bread will be offered by:

January 14th: Anonymous-- For the Health of my Family

DONATIONS

Georgette Abraham in loving memory of Mitchell Abraham.

Bryan & Annette Haddad in loving memory of Mitchell Abraham.

Salma Isaac for the health of Lon Silagi.

Martin & Sharon Madsen in Honor of their son Alex for his Promotion.

Jean-Marc & Marisela Salloum for the Blessing & Baptism of Aidan. May God give him, Fr. Joseph & Khr. Carol many beautiful years to come.

Vanessa Salloum: Congratulations to Fr. Joseph & Khr. Carol on the Blessed Baptism of Aidan.

James & Odette Shaheen & family: Prayers for Aidan's Baptism, Carmelita Cepeda (after a stroke) & Minerva Ponce's father & family.

In Memory of Eli Ferris

Raed & Sylvana Aldouri

Tony Dayoub & Family

Jamie Isaac

In Memory of William Gottfried

Tony Dayoub & Family

Archdiocese Dues:

Albert, Jameelie, Matthew & David Dayoub

Joyce Haddad

Fotios Tsoukalas

DOME LIGHTING

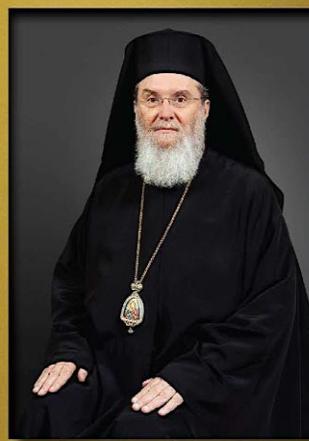
Jan 7th by Jehan & Naida Dallo

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.



Contribute by January 31, 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 Aboud 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

“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)



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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
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

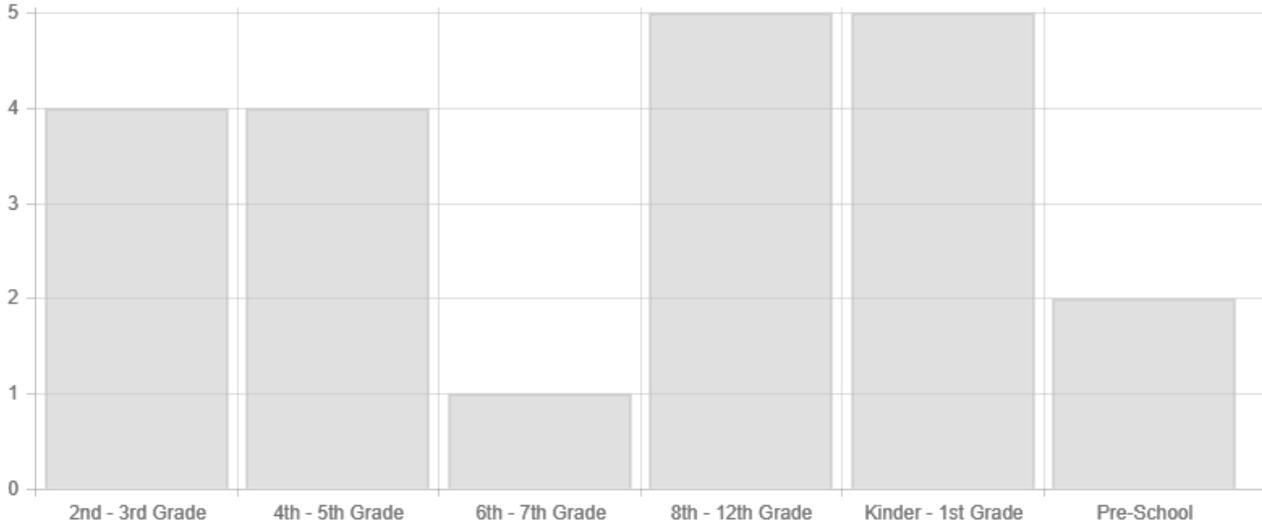
"And they were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

21

People Attended This Event

ST. GEORGE CHURCH SCHOOL

Attendance is up by 23.5%
Compared to the Past 3 Months



Pre- School	Kinder – 1 st	2nd – 3rd	4th – 5th	6th – 7th	8th – 12th
Jace Gerena Kingston Joudi	Nia Isaac Giselle Gerena Larissa Alyoussef Joseph Salloum Amaya Salloum	Wik Brooke Nigel Rangel Ophelia Adkins Atticus Denny	Finlay Adkins Judah Denny Ryan Salloum Danica Salloum	Sami Odeh	Jonathan El Ojeil James Shaheen Johnny Odeh Joseph Odeh Anthony Jarjour

We thank all the parents that made an effort to bring their children to Sunday School this past Sunday! We encourage the rest to keep bringing their children this coming Sunday!

Our Pursuit of Holiness...

Through our Time, Talent, and Treasure

What: A Weekend with Rev. Archdeacon Saed Rihani

Where: St. George, El Paso.

When: Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend
(January 12, 13, 14 & 15 of 2018)

Who: Archdeacon Saed Rihani has been a deacon for the Diocese of Toledo since 1988! He is currently serving our sister parish St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Palos Heights, IL (southern suburbs of Chicagoland Area). Along with **H. E.**

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archdeacon Saed was the **Keynote Speaker** at the **Orthodox Young Professionals** Meeting that took place in New Orleans, Louisiana on August of 2016! Now, he has accepted to come and speak to our Teens, Sunday School Staff (workshop), Ladies Society, and Young Adults in weekend full of enlightenment and insight about how we are to achieve Holiness using our precious time, our God-given talents, and our treasures!



Schedule of Events:

Friday, 12th of January: Talk to our Young Professionals & Young Adults (ages 19-45) followed by a dinner and socializing @ **ELOISE starting at 6:30 p.m.** (255 Shadow Mountain Dr, El Paso, TX 79912)

Saturday, 13th of January: Brunch with our Ladies' Society (starts at 10:00 a.m.)

Saturday, 13th of January (Evening): Talk to our Teens SOYO (Immediately after Vespers) with a Pizza Dinner in the Teen SOYO Room!

Monday 15th of January: Sunday School Workshop from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

More information to come! Save the date!!!!

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.