



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 7, 2018

**SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER & BAPTIST
JOHN**

NEW-MARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA; VENERABLE BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON

TONE 5

EOTHINON 8

Saturday Service: Vespers 5:00P.M.

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

Epistle: Bryan Haddad

Ushers: Any available faithful

Altar Boys: All are welcome to serve.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN 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.

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.

APOLYTIKION OF SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

“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 Synaxis)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God

THE GOSPEL

(For the Synaxis)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

THE SYNAXARION

On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton. On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople. Because John's main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the "day after" to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people for repentance. John prepared himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, the Baptist is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him 11 about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity at the Savior's Baptism. By the intercessions of Thy Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Thought of the Day

"The soul should be provided with the word of God. For the word of God, as Gregory the Theologian says, 'is the bread of angels, which feeds the soul that is hungry for God. But, above all, one should read the New Testament and the Psalter. From this proceeds illumination of the mind...' -- St. Seraphim of Sarov

Holy Bread will be offered by:



January 6th: Fotios & Bertha Tsoukalas for the health of the family.

January 7th: Bryan & Annette Haddad & Georgette Abraham in memory of Beloved Father and Husband, Mitchell Abraham.

DONATIONS

Allen & Patricia Borschow for the health of Lon Silagi.

Salma Isaac for the health of Vanessa Salloum, all the Salloum families, all the Isaac, Joudi, Elias & Thomas families.

Sada Vaughan in memory of Johnny Haddad and Miriam Azar Hannah.

Salma Isaac in memory of Edward Isaac, Bill Isaac & Betty White.

Bishop Basil Endowment

David & Dalal Young Jamie Isaac

Archdiocese Dues:

Phillip Borschow, Drs. Hassan & Maha Salloum, Sam, Teresa, Joseph Salloum

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)

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 19-40) followed by a dinner and socializing at one of our town's hotspots (yet to be determined)!

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!

Sunday & Monday, 14th and 15th of January: Sunday School Workshop

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

Theophany Liturgical Services Schedule

Day	Time	Service
Theophany of Christ – Paramon of the Feast & Blessing of the Waters		
Friday 01/05/2017	9:30 a.m.	Royal Hours Immediately Followed by Vespers Divine Liturgy
Saturday 01/06/2017	8:15 a.m.	Matins
	9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy (Followed by Blessing of the Waters)

Ladies' Society Urgent Meeting:

This coming Sunday, a meeting will take place in order to finalize the Brunch details for Saturday 13th of January and to prepare for Archdeacon Saed Rihani's talk.

Teen SOYO Christmas Retreat



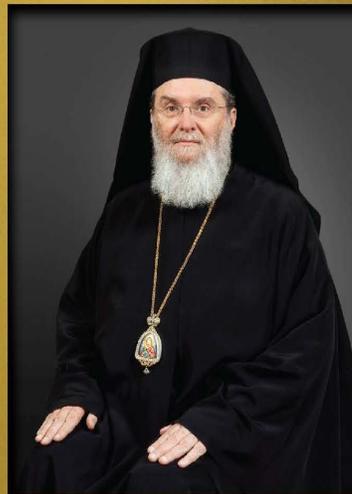
The Teens enjoyed of a wonderful and successful christmas retreat last week at the Holy Cross Retreat Center in Las Cruces, NM! It was wonderful time of fellowship, prayer, and learning about our faith. It was also a time of tons of fun! We would like to thank all the people who made of this event possible: the Ladies Society and Deanna Nasser for their generous donation; Sunset Funeral Home for donating the transportation; Allen Borschow, Jean-Marc Salloum, and Alex Tsoukalas for helping to drive; and especially our Chaperones Alexie Baine, Jannette Salloum, and David Dayoub for such a great job taking care of our teens during this trip!

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

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.