

2020 St. George Church Staff and Organizations

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The Very Rev. Anthony G. Sabbagh (610) 653-6405

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Joseph Landino (408) 219-2871

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Thomas Underwood (610) 515-5916

Deacon

Peter Attar (610) 462-7688

Altar Boy Captain

George Khallouf (484) 554-0889

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Jaklin Sabbagh Rehab Martin

Abe & Fadia Assad

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Head Lay Advisor:

Khouria Mary Landino

Assistant Lay Advisors:

Khalil Yacoub Simone Dergham

Karsten Boyer Salma Zaoudeh

Abe & Fadia Assad

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Nasser Sabbagh, Naife Khalouf

Bachar Issa, Hala Atiyeh, Fouad Salloum

Nour Salloum, Dima Botros

July 12, 2020

Tone 4 / Eothinon 5

4th Sunday after Pentecost 5th Sunday of Matthew

*Today we commemorate: Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra;
Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by our Lord;
Venerable Father Paisios the New of Athos*

Divine Liturgy

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

• *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE (For the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10)

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and

seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

THE GOSPEL (For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthen. (8:28-9:1)

AT THAT TIME, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

• *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

THE DISMISSAL

Holy Bread

The Holy Bread is offered before the Altar of God:

For Good Health, Well Being and Blessings

Archbishop Paul Yazigi, Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim; Metropolitan Joseph; George and Mary Makdesi; Fay, Lisa and Dawn Moses; Georgette, Jason, Kensey, Joann, Janice Awad; Eyad, Jennifer, Eyan and Zayn Alraei; Joann and Daymyne Layne; Halim and Family; Georges Saba and Family; Silva, Issa, Reine Saba; Adele Alraei and Family; Georges and Kater Daher; Abed and Jaklin Makhoul; Elias, Sabah Makhoul; Bill, Maryann, Bowie Lohr; George and Mary Makdesi; Hala Sabbagh; George and Jesse Nakhoul; Faisal and Nadia Daher; Bashar Hanna and Family; Georges Bitar and Family; Mona, Wail, Heather, Mitchell, Mallory, Abeer, Elyssa and Eyanne; Albert, Shadia, Christian, Michael and Alexia Bitar; Afeef and Naify Hanna.

In Loving Memory

Metropolitan Philip; Bishop Antoun, Fr. George Khouli; Steven Makdesi; Fadel, Najla, Rabah, Georges Zaiter, and all departed in Zaiter Families; David Moses; Georges Daher; Thomas Makhoul; Michael Awad; Steven Makdesi; Jamileh Abboud; Hanna, George, Samar Daher; Rahmeh, Wajih Hanna; Alfred Hanna; Michael and Badih Bitar; Bassam, Khalil, Nizha Bitar; Elias Awad; Nakhle Awad; Issa, Bedra and Sameer Saba; Abraham, Adla and Mary Awad; Georges Daher; Elias Saba.

Vesper service held Saturdays at 5 pm

The service of Vespers takes us through creation, sin, and salvation in Christ. It leads us to the meditation of God's word and the glorification of his love for men. It instructs us and allows us to praise God for the particular events or persons whose memory is celebrated and made present to us in the Church. It prepares us for the sleep of the night and the dawn of the new day to come. On the evening before the Divine Liturgy, it begins our movement into the most perfect communion with God in the sacramental mysteries.

Special donations to the Church

We acknowledge families and friends who have honored dear ones with monetary gifts given in the spirit of loving kindness.

- \$ Georgette Awad to the Church with Happy Birthday Wishes (July 28) to Zayn Alraei – Happy Birthday Zayn!; for the good health of Georgette, Jason, Kensey, Joann, Janice Awad; Eyad, Jennifer, Eyan and Zayn Alraei; Joann and Daymyne Layne; Halim and Family; Georges Saba and Family; Silva, Issa, Reine Saba; Adele Alraei and Family; in loving memory of Elias Awad; Nakhle Awad; Issa, Bedra and Sameer Saba; Abraham, Adla and Mary Awad; Georges Daher; Elias Saba.
- \$ George and Mary Makdesi in loving memory of Steven Makdesi.
- \$ Georges and Kater Daher in loving memory of Georges Daher.
- \$ Abed and Jaklin Makhoul in loving memory of Thomas Makhoul; Michael Awad; for good health of Elias, Sabah Makhoul; Bill; Maryann, Bowie Lohr.
- \$ George and Mary Makdesi in loving memory of Steven Makdesi.
- \$ Faisal and Nadia Daher; Bashar Hanna and Family for the good health of Faisal and Nadia Daher; Bashar Hanna and Family; in loving memory of Jamileh Abboud; Hanna, George, Samar Daher; Rahmeh, Wajih Hanna.
- \$ The Bitar Family for the good health of Mona, Wail, Heather, Mitchell, Mallory, Abeer, Elyssa and Eyanne; Albert, Shadia, Christian, Michael and Alexia Bitar; in loving memory of Michael and Badih Bitar.
- \$ Georges Bitar and Family in loving memory of Bassam, Khalil, Nizha Bitar; Elias Saba.
- \$ Afeef and Naify Hanna to the Church in loving memory of Alfred Hanna.

Thought for the day

“Never cease to give thanks for what you have received. Perhaps we are not rich men when it comes to money and property, but we are wealthy men in the eyes of God. He has given us many unseen gifts, eternal ones, ones that cannot be taken from us. We have been given more than we labored for. Rejoice, for God is generous and merciful. He is the God of Love, and He loves us all.”

-- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

Eternal Candle Sponsor

Fay, Lisa and Dawn Moses

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

David Moses

Sponsor the Eternal Light or a Seven-Day Candle

Looking for a tangible way to remember a departed loved one or pray for the good health of a friend or relative, or recognize a special occasion? Consider a one-week sponsorship of the Eternal Light or a Seven-Day Candle that will burn continuously in the House of God asking Him to make your prayers acceptable to his holy Majesty, that His love, mercy and peace will surround and sustain those whom you are praying for in this life and the life to come.

- The sponsor's name and who is to be mentioned and prayed for will also be printed in this bulletin for the week selected.
- Sponsors are asked to consider a donation of \$10 or more per week to accompany their request.
- Please see Hiyam Tabchi after Church services to sponsor a week or call the church office weekdays at (610) 439-1232.

Are you a member?

We are truly thankful for you and your family here at St. George Church. You are a vital part of our church community and we stand ready to serve you. Your valued membership allows our Church to continue to enhance the spiritual growth of the Orthodox Christians entrusted to our care. Please contact the Church Office at (610) 439-1232 if you are not a member and would like to receive a membership application, or if you have any questions concerning your membership status. We thank you for your generosity and partnership in St. George Orthodox Church.

Within the Church

We wish God's blessings to our parishioners and friends of St. George Church on their special day. Please keep your church office informed of birthdays, anniversaries and special family events (610) 439-1232. Best wishes for a wonderful Birthday/Anniversary and a year filled with good health and happiness.

Happy Birthday

7/12 Paul Hanna
Hope Sabbagh
Joun Al Hanna
Hanna Achkar
7/15 Tony Hanna
Zahia Burro
Walid Khouli
Bonnie Davis
Fadi Hanna
7/17 Amal Eskander
Amy Bitar
Shaker Bakhos
7/18 Simon Saliby
Michael Moussa
Paulette Saab

7/18 Dima Botros
Elias Berro
Fayez Abboud

Happy Anniversary

7/12/82 Fadi & Suzanne Dayoub
7/12/08 Mounif & Dalia Katrib
7/14/74 Wajih & Marie Khouly
7/14/74 Jared & Leila Maalouf
7/16/16 Rami & Hiba Kamarra
7/17/11 Justin & Liza Al Khal
7/18/94 David & Jody Davis
7/18/15 Matthew & Anna Maria Kochan



ANCIENT FAITH
MINISTRIES

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www.ancientfaith.com

Ancient Faith Ministries, a department of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through accessible and excellently-crafted publications and creative media that educate, edify, and evangelize, leading to a living experience of God through His Holy Orthodox Church.

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A growing library of original video productions of Orthodox teaching, conferences, documentaries, interviews, and more. Different from our video podcast offerings, these films are unique full-length features on a wide range of topics related to Orthodox Christianity.

Go Forth...

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We live in a time when evil reigns in much of the world. The struggle with the "Power of Evil" permeates the Bible, and, throughout the centuries it has been and still is of great concern in the Life of the Church. Indeed, much has been experienced in her continuing struggle with Evil in all of its manifestations.

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus meets two men under the power (influence) of demons. Others could not pass through that area because of the fierce attacks of these men possessed by evil. But when Jesus came, the demons cried out: *What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?* (Matt. 8:29).

In these words the demons acknowledged the Power of the Son of God, for the power of God alone can overcome evil and God will ultimately destroy Evil. The demons beg Jesus, *If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine* (Matt. 8:31). They ask the *Son of God* to permit them to enter into a herd of swine. The answer of Jesus is the simple command to the demons: *Go* (Matt. 8:32). This is the only conversation that Jesus has with the demons—brief and to the point. There is no argument, no justification, no explanation;



simply a command: *Go*.

When Jesus told Peter and His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the Elders and Chief Priests and Scribes, and be killed and on the third day to be raised, Peter rebuked Jesus and said: *Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You* (Matt. 16:22). Jesus then turned to Peter and said: *Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense [stumbling block] to Me, for you are not mindful of the things God, but the things of men* (Matt. 16:23).

Again the response is "No" to Peter who is speaking, not in harmony with the will of God.

The temptation to commit sin—to do evil—is to be rejected whatever its source. Neither Scripture quotations, not even the words of a "Disciple of Christ" who had just been called Peter—the Rock—is to deter us from rejecting the evil intent. The Devil piously quoted Scripture, and Peter piously protested the possibility of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. But in both cases, the intent was to oppose the Will of God, or to allow Evil to have its way, and thus the only response is a categorical "No!"

Evil knows its place in the world, as the demons themselves indicated. They had no place in man created in the Image and Likeness of God and enlivened by the breath of God. They asked to be permitted to enter into the "unclean ani-

mals," the herd of swine, a more suitable place of abode for evil.

Evil has no place in man's world. It is the "Spirit of destruction and death"; having entered the herd of swine, the demons drove them into the sea where they perished. God is the "Spirit of peace and concord"; God is the "Spirit of love and unity," for *God is love*. When man allies himself with God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, he places himself squarely on the side of Good, of Beauty, of Perfection, of Peace, Harmony and Unity. Therefore, any force that would tempt man away from the godly path, must be rejected categorically, and in the words of Christ, must be told to *Go—Get behind Me, Satan*.

We are reminded how important it is not even to enter into conversation with evil. St. John Chrysostom observes in his interpretation of the first chapters of the Book of Genesis, that man made himself vulnerable to sin when he entered into conversation with the Serpent. The first step in the commission of sin is to change the categorical "No" with which we should always answer all temptations to sin, with a "Maybe",—to consider the possibility of sin. This leads to "Maybe" all, and there can be no middle road. In our day, we are often told that there is a middle road and we are tempted to compromise with Evil. But the experience of the Church, which is our experience in Christ, clearly denies such a possibility.

In the first chapters of the Book of Revelation, the seven churches of Asia are warned of the danger of compromising with Evil,

and are called to reaffirm their commitment to Christ, the Son of God, and to reject Evil in whatever form it appears. The Church of Laodicea is the seventh Church and its lukewarm Christianity is roundly condemned in these words: *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent* (Rev. 3:15-16, 19).

We need not despair, even though we may have succumbed to the blandishments of the Devil, for God does not want us to die. He wants us to repent and live. As He told the Church then, He tells us now: *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches* (Rev. 3:20-22).

If we "pass the test" and resist the temptations of Evil—we will also conquer—even as Christ conquered—Evil, for we will conquer the Conqueror himself. When we conquer we will receive the ultimate reward—the privilege of entrance into the Kingdom of God, there to reign with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the Eternal Glory of Peace and Joy. Amen.

From *The Living Word, Vol. II*. Compiled & Edited by His Grace, the Most Reverend HERMAN. St. Tikhon's Press. South Canaan, PA 18459

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Go Forth...and teach all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

Go Forth...

JULY 13 - THE HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

This great archangel of God is commemorated on March 26th. On this day his appearances and marvels through the whole history of the salvation of mankind are commemorated. It is reckoned that this observance was first instituted on the Holy Mountain in 982, during the patriarchate of Nicolas Chrysoverges (979-91), and was occasioned by the Archangel's appearing in a cell near Karyes, where, with his finger, he wrote the hymn to the Mother of God: 'It is meet ...'.

As a result of this occurrence, the cell was named, and is called to this day, 'It is meet ...'. Linked with this, other appearances of the Archangel Gabriel are commemorated, such as his appearing to Moses when he was keeping Jethro's flocks, when he revealed to this great man, chosen by God, how the world was created and all the rest that Moses later wrote down in the Book of Genesis; his appearing to Daniel and the imparting of the mystery of the kingdoms to



come and the coming of the Saviour; his appearing to St. Anna and the promise of a daughter, the most blessed and pure Virgin Mary; his very brief appearing to the holy Virgin while she was living in the Temple in Jerusalem; his appearing to Zacharias the high priest and the news of the birth of John the Forerunner, and the punishing of the same with dumbness because he did not believe the angel's words; his appearing once again

to the holy Virgin in Nazareth, and the annunciation of the conception and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ; his appearing to righteous Joseph, to the shepherds near Bethlehem, to the Lord Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane when he strengthened the Lord, as man, before His Passion; his appearing to the myrrh-bearing women, and his other appearances.

From *The Prologue from Ochrid*. Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic. Lazarica Press. Birmingham, B30 1QE England

FROM THE FATHERS...

All of us men must be watchful and take heed to ourselves, whether we are believers or unbelievers, small or great. If we are unbelieving we must do so in order that we may arrive at knowledge and faith towards the God Who has made us, if we believe, it is in order that we may live rightly and be found well pleasing to Him in every good work.

ON WORKS OF MERCY, ST. SYMEON THE NEW THEOLOGIAN, THE DISCOURSES

Where would there be opportunities for struggling for great deeds if we were not occasioned injury by our neighbours, if they did not offend us? Where would there be opportunities for patiently bearing offences, for meekness and humility? You see, then, that we must be tried by many and various evils in order to prove our virtue and be eventually crowned.

ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT, MY LIFE IN CHRIST

The practice of the prayer of Jesus comes from holy David, or more accurately the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David, offers to all Christians without exception: 'The kings of the earth and all people, princes and all judges of the earth, young men and maidens - let elders with the young praise the

name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted (PS. 148:11-13).' A literal understanding of the states enumerated here would be perfectly permissible, but their essential meaning is spiritual.

ST. IGNATIUS BRIANCHANINOV, ON THE PRAYER OF JESUS

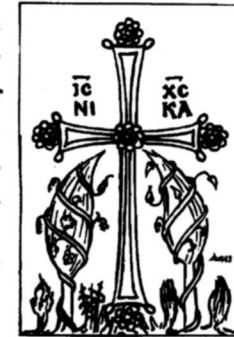
It is quite certain the virtue is the only and the highest good; that it alone richly abounds in the fruit of a blessed life; that a blessed life, by means of which eternal life is won, does not depend on external or corporeal benefits, but on virtue only. A blessed life is the fruit of the present, and eternal life is the hope of the future.

ST. AMBROSE, ON THE DUTIES OF THE CLERGY, BOOK II

People account it a great thing to have friendship and fellowship with an earthly king; how incomparably greater is

the privilege of having fellowship and friendship with God, Who is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords and abides in light unapproachable! O how much have God's goodness and love toward man wrought! Look, O Christian, and you shall see the nobility and merit of Christians. They have communion with the great and incomprehensible God.

ST. TIKHON OF ZADONSK, JOURNEY TO HEAVEN



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