

2020 St. George Church Staff and Organizations

Pastor

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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Victor Hanna, Vice President

Albert Bitar, Treasurer; Esper Hanna, Vice Treasurer

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Abe Assad, Corresponding Secretary

Dima Butros, Ass't. Corresponding Secretary

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Elias Gharzouzi

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Donna Becker

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Adnan Sabbagh

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Rev. Joseph Landino, Ass't. Pastor

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George Nassoor, Co-Chair

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Kate Assad Marwan Sabbagh *chanter*

Christina Attar Karsten Boyer *chanter*

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Naoumy Sabbagh Kh. Minerva Sabbagh

David T. Davis Nour Salloum

Delores Edwards

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Hiyam Tabchi, Treasurer

Wafaa Rabi, Corresponding Secretary

Suzanne Zoudeh, Recording Secretary

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Christina Attar Julia Marques

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Jaklin Sabbagh Rehab Martin

Abe & Fadia Assad

Teen SOYO

The Very Rev. Anthony G. Sabbagh, Pastor

Spiritual Advisor:

Rev. Joseph Landino

Head Lay Advisor:

Khouria Mary Landino

Assistant Lay Advisors:

Khalil Yacoub Simone Dergham

Karsten Boyer Salma Zaoudeh

Abe & Fadia Assad

Matthew & Anna Maria Kochan

Junior Lay Advisor:

Ryan Attar

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Katerina Landino, Vice President

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Ibrahim El-Moreef Vivian Abboud

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Naife Khalouf, Coordinator

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Nasser Sabbagh, Naife Khalouf

Bachar Issa, Hala Atiyeh, Fouad Salloum

Nour Salloum, Dima Botros

May 17, 2020

Tone 4 / Eothinon 7

Fifth Sunday of Pascha

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

After-Feast of Mid-Pentecost

*Today we commemorate: Apostles Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy;
Athanasios the New, bishop of Christianopolis; Eudoxia, princess of Moscow*

Divine Liturgy

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (Refrain)

Glory... Both now... (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Verse: That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee. (Refrain)

Verse: May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (Refrain)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Verse: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

Verse: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. (Refrain)

Verse: So let sinners perish before the face of God, and let the righteous be glad. (Refrain)

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Refrain)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

• Now sing these apolytikia in the following order.

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.

APOLYTIKION FOR MID-PENTECOST IN TONE EIGHT

In the midst of this Feast, O Savior, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for Thou didst call out to all, saying: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to Thee.

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

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (11:19-30)

IN THOSE DAYS, the Disciples, who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen, traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the Word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, upon coming to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the Disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the Disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (4:5-42)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His Disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that Thou, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst forever; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and Thou sayest that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming [He Who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to you am He." Just then His Disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What dost Thou wish?" or,

"Why art Thou talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the Disciples besought Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the Disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He said to me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

MEGALYNARION FOR SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN IN TONE ONE

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.

Rejoice and be glad, O gate of the divine Light; for Jesus Who disappeared in the tomb hath risen with greater radiance than the sun, illuminating all believers, O Lady favored of God.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

- Instead of "We have seen the true light," sing "Christ is Risen" once.

THE DISMISSAL

Holy Bread

The Holy Bread is offered before the Altar of God:

For Good Health, Well Being and Blessings

Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim; Metropolitan Joseph; Tisbine Moussa; Fay, Lisa and Dawn Moses; Abed and Jaklin Makhoul; Elias, Sabah Makhoul; Bill, Maryann, Bowie Lohr; George and Mary Makdesi; Hala Sabbagh; George and Jesse Nakkoul; Badiha Daher; Nick and Aida Daher; 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; The Saba Family; Afeef and Naify Hanna.

In Loving Memory

Metropolitan Philip; Bishop Antoun; Father George; Jammily Koury; Jeanette Sayegh; David Moses; 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.

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.
- A donation of \$10 or more per week should accompany sponsor's request.
- Please see our website at www.stgeorgeallentown.com to sponsor a week or call the church office weekdays at (610) 439-1232.

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.

- \$ 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 Eyanna; 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.

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

5/17 Sami Moussa
Naomi Martin
Diana Santiago

5/23 Anissa Kim Abboud
Fedaa Makhoul

5/18 Mary Yacoub
Jacob Azar
Elias Abo Afash
Esper Hanna

Happy Anniversary

5/17/86 James & Tina Alotta
5/18/14 Alex & Jacqueline Morra
5/21/67 Bob & Kathy Miller
5/23/82 Marwan & Seham Sabbagh
5/23/15 Rand & Kenda Massouh

5/19 Hanna Ibrahim
Marianne Sue Makhoul

5/20 Janet Takla

5/22 Alexandra C. Hanna

Thought for the day

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 31:6

A note about “Building our bridge to the future”

Thank you for your interest in St. George’s finances. The Parish Council’s number one priority for the beginning of 2020 has been financial transparency. We are happy to answer any questions you have by email, phone or meeting by request. Many projects are underway to improve operations and bring our community even closer together. Contact us today to find out how you can be a part of Building Our Bridge to The Future by contributing your ideas, time and talents.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
St. George Church Parish Council

Monthly financial reports available

St. George Church monthly financial reports are available in the church hall and electronically. Please visit www.stgeorgeallentown.com. and complete a request form to receive a report by email.

Special announcement during coronavirus epidemic

- All Liturgical services will be served with only clergy, servers and chanters.
(No liturgical service can total more than 10 persons)
- This protects our church as we comply with directives from the Archdiocese.



Fifth Sunday After Easter

“THE SAMARITAN”

“Come, see a man which told me all things that I ever did: is not this the Christ?” (John 4, 5-42).

The Gospel Lesson for today, dear brethren, speaks to us about Samaria. What was Samaria? It was one of the four provinces of Israel, between Judea and Galilee. The residents of Samaria were formerly Jews from the tribe of Jacob. In 721 B.C., a great turmoil overtook the province. It was conquered by a pagan king, who transported into the territory many people from his own kingdom. During the course of time, the Jews began to intermarry with their

captors and as a result, the generations to follow were neither purely Jewish or purely pagan. Their customs as well as religious practices were mixed and somewhat confused. As a result, the Orthodox Jews in the surrounding provinces disassociated themselves from the Samaritans, and in time built up a tremendous hatred for them. They considered the Samaritans as the illegitimate children of Israel, and would never intermarry with them or even as much as wish a Samaritan good morning. In fact, any Jew that wanted to go to the districts beyond Samaria had to travel around Samaria, rather than taking the shorter route through it. In time, the Samaritans cultivated similar feelings for the Jews. Because the Jews forbade them to worship at Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, the Samaritans built their own temple on the mountain Gerizim. This is a brief but concise history of Samaria's background.

The Gospel speaks about the city of Sychar in Samaria. Outside the city there was a famous well, known as "Jacob's well." Prior to this, the Samaritans had no knowledge of Christ. As we already mentioned, they were not permitted access to any of the Jewish lands, and as a result, had no way of knowing about Christ. However, a woman became their missionary, the "godmother" of the Samaritans. How strange! We read that this woman was sinful, having been married four times. She either divorced or separated from her previous husband, and was living illegally with a fifth. This woman, who was considered sinful and debased upon confronting Christ, repented and believed in Him. She changed her life and the life of others. She did not go to Christ, rather Christ went to her. This is an important fact that should remind us of our duty and obligation, which is to go out and find the numerous Samaritans of our time and bring them to Christ. Every feast day and on Sundays, we open the doors of our churches and how many people are coming? Hardly enough. All Samaritans, the Publicans and Zachaeus remain outside our doors, waiting for us. Christ's example is a great lesson for us, while at the same time, it condemns us. Christ, who knows the heart of man, went out of his way to find our lost soul. He was man. The stones sizzled under the warm Samaritan sun. One of the fathers of the church observed that "the Samaritan woman came at noon, because during the morning and evening hours other women came for water, and she was ashamed of her immoral life and afraid that she would become the object of their derision." The conversation between our Lord and the Samaritan woman is at the same time simple and deep. She went to draw water from the well and, instead, discovered the

fountain of immortality. "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." She recognized that the man with whom she was speaking was "the Messiah which is called Christ." But she did not stop there. She wanted her experience not only for herself, but preferred for that salvation to become a common property of Samaria. She left the waterpot and dashed off to her compatriots, inviting, urging them to see the Messiah. He is the one the people have been long awaiting. "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" Her message to the people was inspired by the warmth she felt in her heart. The people went to Christ, "They went out of the city, and came unto Him." The Samaritans, who were considered sinners by their Jewish cousins, begged Christ to remain with them, unlike the Gergesenes, who, when Christ had cast out the demons from two possessed by them, "besought Him that He would depart out of their coasts." (Matt. 8,34).

What do we learn from today's Gospel? We learn the value of imitating good examples, such as the Samaritan woman and the people of Samaria. We learn the value of believing in Christ with all our hearts. We learn to repent and to abandon the sinful life. After these saving experiences, we can go out and find those that live lives distant from Christ, to convince them that the life close to Christ is peaceful and beautiful. These people do not live far away, we do not have to travel miles to search them out. They are our friends and relatives. They are waiting for us!