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**كَنِيسَةُ الْقَدِّيسِ جَاورْجِيوسِ الْأَنْطَاكِيَةِ الْأَرْثُودُكْسِيَّةِ**

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Kamal Alrahil, Pastor  
Deacon Raphael [Eric] Bateh



**WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025**



**The Weekly Bulletin is an official publication of Saint George  
Antiochian Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, Florida.**

*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America.*



## SUNDAY SERVICE

Matins ~ 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy ~ 10:00 AM

*(Confession: By Appointment Only)*

Office Hours: Monday - Friday (9:00AM - 1:00 PM)

**Saturday:** By Appointment

**Sunday:** Closed

Church email: [stgeorgejax@comcast.net](mailto:stgeorgejax@comcast.net)



**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**Jad Hanania and Issa Odeh**

## **St. George Church Banquet Hall**

### **CAPACITY:**

**Hall Banquet Seating**

**160** without dance floor

**130** with dance floor

Our Church Hall is available for RENTAL for your next Celebration (*i.e. Baptism, Graduation, Birthday, Retirement, Rehearsal Dinner; etc...*)

*You may call the church office at 904- 448- 1855 for questions about reservation dates and availability.*



## Social Coffee Hour Sponsors for the month of August

### Sunday, August 17, 2025

Suheila Nasser

Issa and Shadia Odeh

Hiyam Odeh

### Sunday, August 24, 2025

Rizik and Jocelyn Okdeh

Ghada Rukab

Johnny and Joy Rukab



### Sunday, August 31, 2025

Basem and Miriam Rustom

Basem and Nahida Salameh

Issam and Leila Salameh

***Your generosity is truly appreciated!***

### Sunday, September 14th 1st Day of Sunday School



Sunday school **starts** 9/14/25 and **ends** 5/24/26

Sunday School classes **begin** after communion  
**11:20 am** and end at **11:50am**

(Pre-Kindergarten through First grade children  
must be picked up from their classrooms.)



## Attention Church Community! Sunday School Program

### Seeking Teachers for 2025-2026 School Year

We are excited to announce that our vibrant and thriving Sunday School program is actively seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team as teachers for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. If you have a heart for nurturing the faith of our youth and a desire to make a positive impact on their spiritual journey, we invite you to consider this fulfilling opportunity.

As a Sunday School teacher, you will have the privilege of guiding and inspiring our young learners, fostering their spiritual growth, and helping them navigate the challenges and questions they may encounter along the way. *Teachers are provided with lesson plans from the Archdiocese Christian Education Department so you will have everything needed to deliver engaging, fun lessons and meaningful activities that encourage our students to develop a deeper understanding of their faith.*

### Qualifications and Responsibilities:

- 1) A firm commitment to living out your own Orthodox faith and a desire to instill these values in our youth.
- 2) Previous experience in teaching, mentoring, or working with school-aged students is not required but highly valued.
- 3) Excellent communication skills and the ability to connect with students at their level of understanding.
- 4) Consistent availability on Sunday mornings and occasional participation in special events or programs.

If you feel called to serve as a teacher in our Sunday School program, we would love to hear from you! Please reach out to Father Kamal or Deacon Raphael to express your interest or ask any questions you may have.

By joining our Sunday School team, you will not only play a vital role in shaping the lives of our young learners, but you will also have the opportunity to grow spiritually and build meaningful relationships within our church community. *Together, let us make a lasting impact on the lives of our students as we guide them in their faith journey.*

We look forward to welcoming passionate and dedicated teachers into our Sunday School program for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you for considering this important ministry opportunity!

***Blessings, The St. George Sunday School Ministry!***



## ***Spiritual Direction from Fr. Kamal***

### **What does Church & Communion mean to you?**

#### **The Church is a Sacred Place.**

Church is **not** a place for entertainment, **nor** is it a social club or Business. Since we know that it is a Holy place - the dwelling place of God Most High, it is our Christian responsibility to treat it as such & teach our children to do the same. We bring our children to church to be close to God, to learn about God and to meet their friends in Christ. When we chose to baptize our children, we take on a great responsibility and vow before God to train them in the ways of His Word & also to train them in the ways of His Holy Church.

Our children will imitate our behavior as they grow. So now is the time to adopt a sacred attitude & posture towards the Church and Communion. Helping our children “get more out of Church” has much to do with them hearing The Word Of God (from the Gospel) as well as the Sermon from the Priest. By these means, we help them experience God directly. Lent is a time for families to draw near to God once again, but it takes commitment! Let us open our heart & our homes to God's saving Grace.

#### **Before you approach the Chalice...**

In the Orthodox Church, we believe that Communion is the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. If we claim to believe this, our actions should support this by being on time for Church, which shows reverence for this Sacrament. The prayers and Scripture readings, as well as the sermon leading up to Communion are vital in preparing us to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

That being said, I am asking all faithful people of St. George Church to be in Church at **the beginning of the Divine Liturgy -10AM**. Of course on the rare occasion that something causes you to be tardy, make certain that you are here **before reading of the Epistle and Gospel at 10:10am**. Otherwise, it is **NOT PERMITTED** that you to take Communion. This applies to everyone: Elderly, adults, youth, and children. This is what The Holy Church teaches us to do and here at St. George, we uphold this teaching in its fullness.

Please, beloved parishioners, don't take this lightly. Make the changes necessary in your Sunday morning routine to be in Church on time.

## **Continued.....**

### ***Furthermore, on Communion etiquette***

NOT everyone who arrives at church on time is prepared to receive Holy Communion. Other conditions must be met, namely: **fasting** (abstaining from food and drink on Sundays before Divine Liturgy, please read 1 Corinthians 11), and **Holy Confession**, (which is the only way to cleanse our mind from any temptation in thought, word or deed), so that we might be spiritually prepared to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

As we confess, we are responsible for freeing ourselves of anger, gossip , jealousy, lust and ill-intent against our brother or sister. If you have these sins within your heart and you dare to approach the Chalice, you put judgment upon yourself. At the very least. this would certainly cause your Lenten fast to lose its value...

We are all human and need the Grace of God; **No one is an exception**. We must humbly ask God to clear our conscience ,wash our mouth of defaming others and rid our hearts from hatefulness.

### **Final thought**

Pastors, as spiritual leaders, hold the responsibility of guiding their congregations and upholding the teachings of their respective churches. This includes adhering to and communicating the Church's teachings, even if it's not possible to please everyone. The decision regarding who is adequately prepared to receive communion ultimately lies with the pastor, guided by Church Law and doctrine.

*In his service,*

Archpriest Dr. Kamal Alrahil, Pastor



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR**  
**Saturday, October 4, 2025**  
**"Virtual and in person"**  
**Annual Fundraising Event (\$100 Raffle)**

Dear St. George Church Family and Friends:

As you know, we are in the process of preparing for our Annual fundraiser. Your generosity and continued support is not only appreciated but is vital for our Church's sustainability. Thank you for being a valuable part of this fundraiser for St. George.

Each raffle ticket is still a **\$100 donation** for a chance to win prize money!

**Raffle Tickets: \$100 per ticket (Raffle ONLY)**  
[Purchase raffle tickets for your chance to win the grand prize of **\$4,000** in cash and to be included on the board for drawing ]

**Preferred Payment methods:**

**Cash** or **Check** payable to St. George Orthodox Church.

Please note that if you are paying by Credit card, a processing fee of **\$5.00** will be added to your total.

*Example: Each ticket will cost you (\$105.00 )instead of \$100*

**Raffle tickets will be available for purchase in the church hall from July 15th to August 31st.**





## **Mid-Year Reminder** **to update your Membership Dues**

Indeed, August marks a great time to reflect on contributions and fulfill your pledge to St. George Church. Pledges are vital as they form the foundation of the church's budget and support its various ministries, outreach programs, and operational needs.

### **There are various ways to contribute to St. George Church:**

**Pledge Envelopes:** Cash or check maybe placed on Sunday Tray Collection. located on the table by the candles-Church Foyer.

**Mail:** You can mail a check to the church office.

**Online Giving ( Pay Pall)** Using online portals through our church website (**[www. Jaxorthodox.com](http://www.Jaxorthodox.com)**)

Setting up recurring contributions with your credit/debit card or bank account.

**Direct Bank Draft ( Bill pay) :** This allows you to set up automatic deductions from your checking account

*As always, remember that your donations to the church are  
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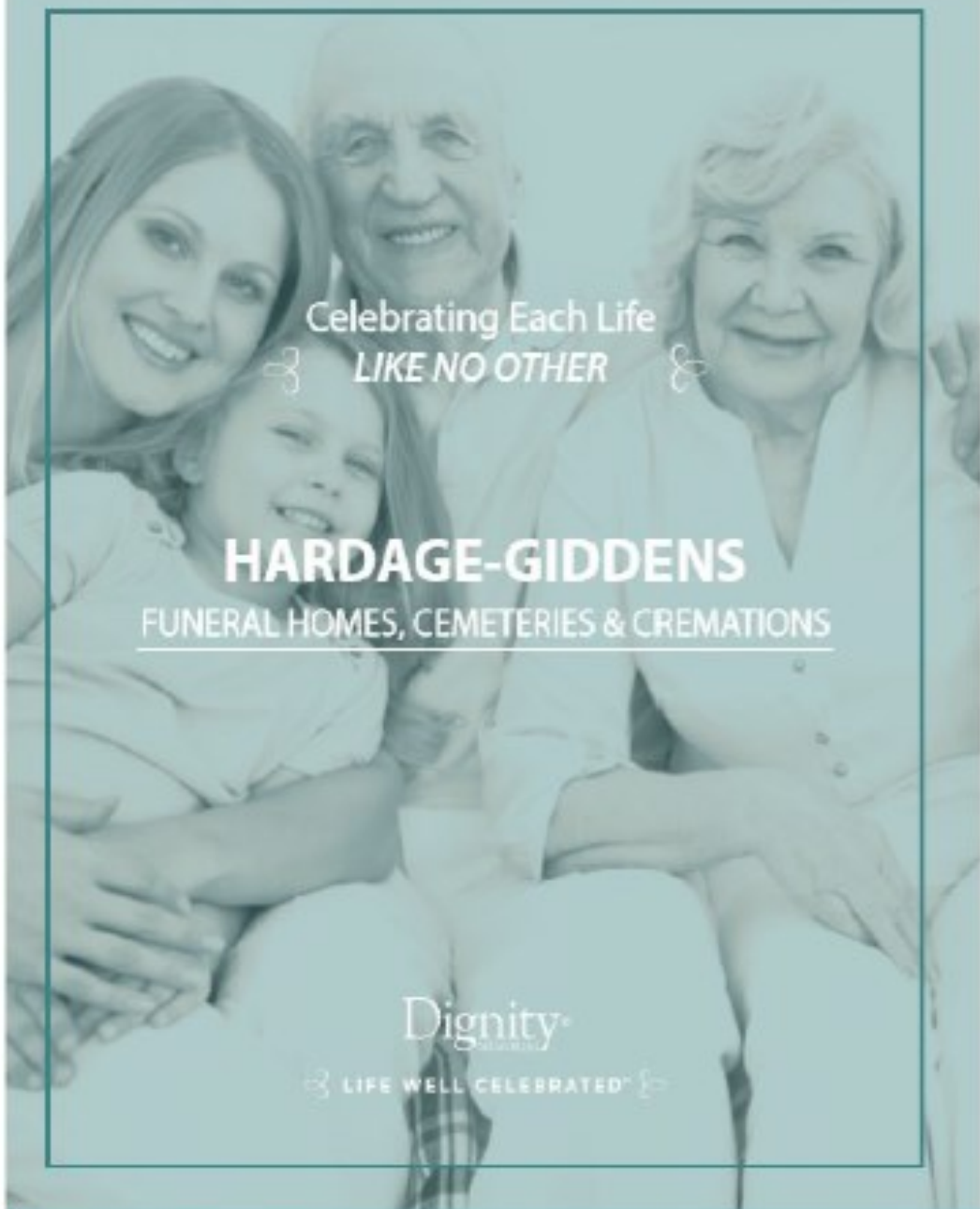
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