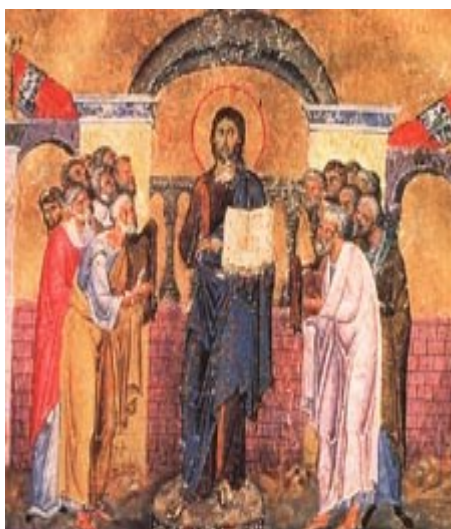


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Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Kamal Alrahil, Pastor
Deacon Raphael [Eric] Bateh



WEEKLY BULLETIN
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 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



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Diana Farhat and Beverly Michael

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.





Current Church Servers

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

The Brotherhood of Noble Joseph consists mainly of the liturgical staff. The goal is to create an environment where the people are engaged in worship and prayer. The Brotherhood of Noble Joseph hopes to achieve this goal by improving communication, advance preparation, and strengthening

bonds as a brotherhood, not merely a staff.

The Brotherhood of the Noble Joseph

Clergy

Archpriest Dr. Kamal Alrahil- PASTOR

Reverend Deacon Raphael (Eric) Bateh

Sacristans and Servers

Subdeacon Nadeem Tannous

Subdeacon Dr. Jarrod Mousa

Subdeacon Ameen Hakim

The Current St. George Chanters

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

Lead Chanter -Reader Tarek Kishek

Chanter Sdn Nadeem Tannous

Lead Arabic Chanter Sally Dham (Bilingual, Arabic and English)

Chanter George Abboud (Bilingual, Arabic and English)

Chanter -Reader Dr. Elias Farah

Chanter: Hiba El Issa

Head Ushers: Mr. Nicholas Joseph and Mr. Issa Odeh

Altar Boy Captains: Nicholas Odeh and Edmond Saoud

Altar Boy Captain's Assistants: Anthony Odeh and Andrew Saoud

Altar Boy members: Michael Al Ashhab, Matthew Messink, Thomas and Lucas Bateh, Caleb and Christian Campbell, Dany Jarjour, Jimmy Thomas, Christian Bajalia, Anthony Sanjar, Andrew Rustom, Frank Mackoul the III and Shadi Owais.

Social Coffee Hour Sponsors for the month of August and September

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Basem and Miriam Rustom
Basem and Nahida Salameh
Issam and Leila Salameh

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Khalil and Ikhlas Salameh
Asma Salameh
Mike Jr. and Mary Salameh
Suad Salameh
Elias and Cynthia Salameh

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Khalil and Sharo Salem
Hanan Salem
Anne Salem
Nabila Salem

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Edward and Linda Salem
Eddie and Linda Salem
Ron and Nancy Salem
Dr. Ramsey and Sally Salem

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Zaher and Nancy Salloum
Samer and Rana Salloum
Dr. Waddah and Hala Salman
Amer and Mania Samaan



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 13, 2025
6-9PM

FAMILY NIGHT AND ANNUAL BONFIRE

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Great Vespers Service at **5:00 PM**
for the Feast of the Elevation of the
Holy Cross followed by “**family
night**” and an “**Annual Bonfire**” in
the new parking lot (in the back).



Stay Tuned !
More details to come soon.

September Birthday and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Khourieh Ranwa Al-Rahil (1)

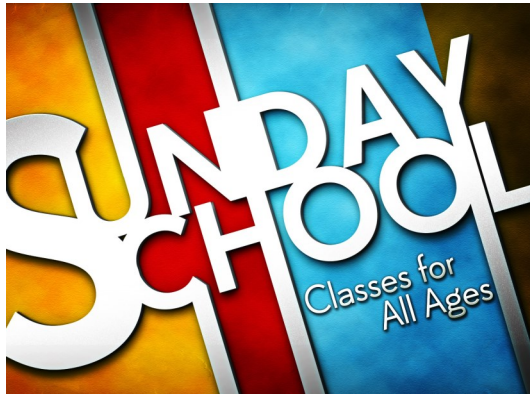
Margie Kalil (1), Rose Harrison (1), Kosti Saleh (2), Alena Salameh (2), Rana Deeb (4), Briana Bajalia (5), Nick Hanna (7), Lamis Anki (8), Ryan Salem (8), Diana Farhat (8), Suheil Akel (9), Hanya Farah (9), Mariam Hanania (10), Sara Farhat (11), Hannah Farah (12), Jack Salem (12), Victor Rukab Jr. (12), Jimmy Mousa (13), Jacob Akel (13), Anthony Akel (13), Amanda Mousa Gazaleh (13), Dr. Konstantine Sayaf (14), Mathew Anki (14), Aziz Farah (15), Johnny Rukab (15), Juliana Hanania (15), Michael Gabriel Salameh (15), Dalia Fakhouri (16), Missie Bitar (16), Joseph Zacharia (16), Nadia Hanania (17), Anna Kalil (17), Juliana Nammour (18), George Santa Lucia (18), Angelina F. Bateh (19), Maysoun Farhat (19), Kathryn Bishara (19), Frank III Mackoul (19), Rasha Hjeir Alam (20), Bassam Aouil (21), Shirin Al-Hirsh (21), Loraine S. Kandah (21), Matthew S. Kazaleh (21), Bradley Farhat (22), Ziadeh Abe Farhat (22), Abigail Farah (22), Chad & Amelia Atallah (22), Edmond Saoud (23), Kamal J. Fakhouri (23), Marcus Bishara (23), Andrew Anwar Eadeh (23), Nora Farhat (24), Raymond Butrus (24), Isabella Shunnarah (25), Abila E. Bateh (26), Leila Owais (26), Fuad Batteh (26), Gloria Hanania (27), Andy Akel (27), Issa Anki (28), Sammy Bateh (28), Christina Renee Farah (29), Rami Farhat (29), Christopher G. Salameh (30), Frieda Kalil (30), Nader Akel (30).



Happy Anniversary to:

Azmi & Vicki Samaan (1), Raymond & Christine Butrus (3), Robert & Kimberly Santa Lucia (5), Robert & Cassie Mousa (14), Easa & Amy Mousa (15), Jimmy & Howaida Mousa (20), Raja and Laura Saoud (20), Jeremy & Nichole Campbell (21), Waddah & Hala Salman (24), Norman & Shadya Mufarreh (25), Kamal & Vina Fakhouri (26), Awad & Jacqueline Rafidi (26), Kosti & Eliana Saleh (29).





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.)

+++++

The beginning of the Church Year

Or

The beginning of the Indiction

“September 1”

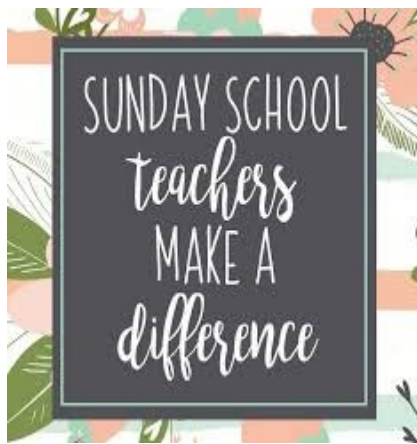
The First Ecumenical Council (Nicaea, 325) decreed that the Church year should begin on September 1.

The month of September was, for the Hebrews, the beginning of the civil year (Exodus 23:16), the month of gathering the harvest and of the offering of thanks to God. It was on this feast that the Lord Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21), opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord Hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim, the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn” (Isaiah 61:1-2).

The month of September is also important in the history of Christianity, because Emperor Constantine the great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith, in September. Following this victory, Constantine granted freedom of confession to the Christian Faith throughout the Roman Empire.

For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world followed the Church year, with its beginning on September 1. The civil year was later changed, and its beginning transferred to January 1. this occurred first in western Europe, and late in Russia, under Peter the Great.

(The Prologue of Ohrid)



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 via Zoom"
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

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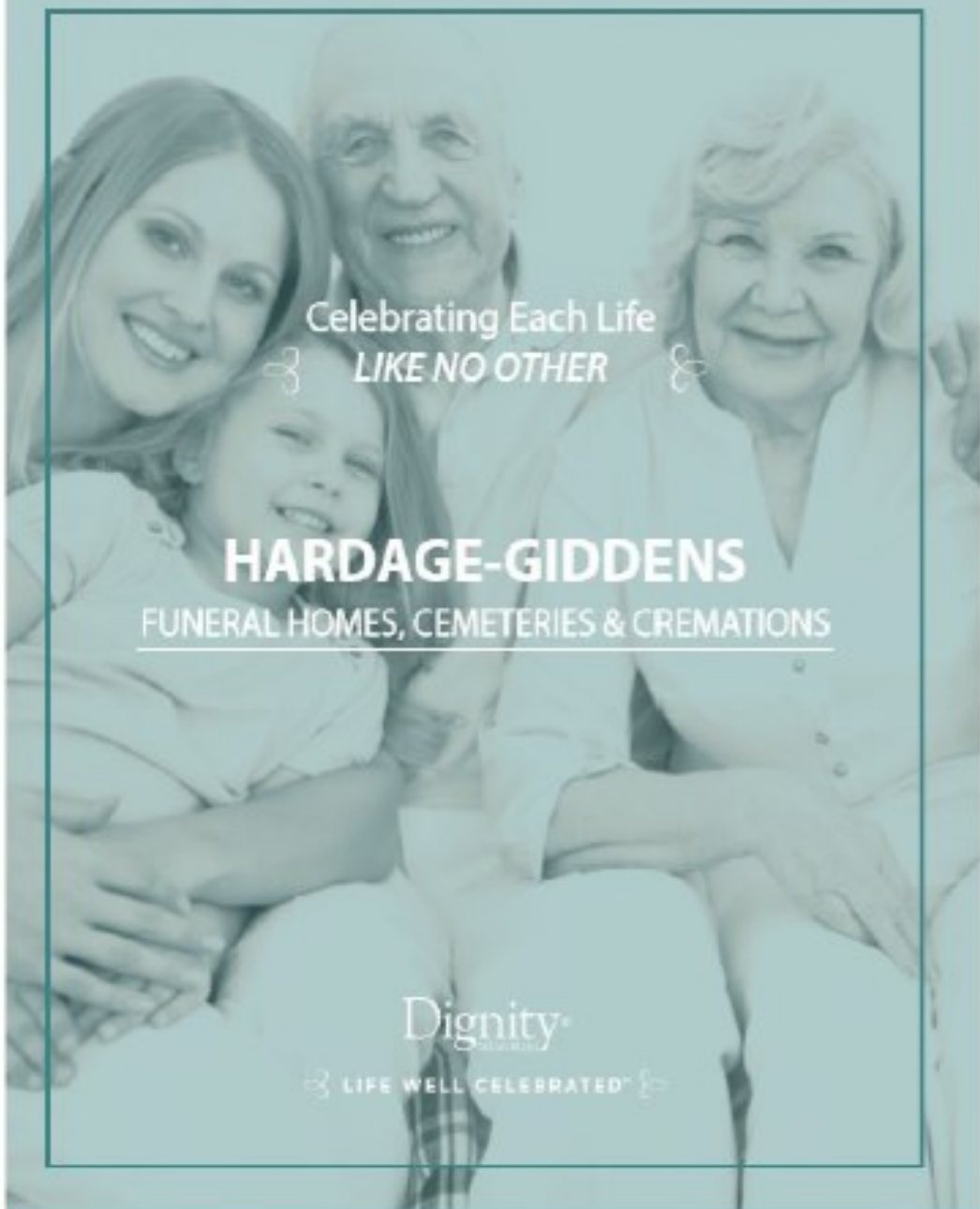


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