

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Kamal Alrahil, Pastor
Deacon Raphael [Eric] Bateh



WEEKLY BULLETIN
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026



**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, January 4, 2026

Jad Hanania and Salem Fakhouri

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

V. Rev. 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 English Chanter -Reader Tarek Kishek

Chanter Sbdn. Nadeem Tannous

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

Chanter George Abboud (Bilingual, Arabic and English)

Chanter -Reader Dr. Elias Farah

Youth Chanter: Hiba El Issa, Juliana, Elizabeth and Sophia Fakhouri.

Head Ushers: Nicholas Joseph and 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 Noah Fakhouri.

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION– Sunday, January 4th

Holy Bread of Oblation is offered by:

Naila Hanna and family

In memory of Hanna El Farr. May his memory be eternal!

Nadya Fuad Farah and family

In memory of Jeanette Bateh, Zarifeh Nicola Bateh, and Mary Farid Bateh.

May their memory be eternal!

Jeanette Jubran and family

In memory of Hanna Jubran (15yrs.) May his memory be eternal!

Nigma Hanna and family

In memory of Nabeel N. Hanna. May his memory be eternal!



MEMORIALS

*I am the Resurrection and the Life.
He who believes in Me shall never die.” (John 11:25)*

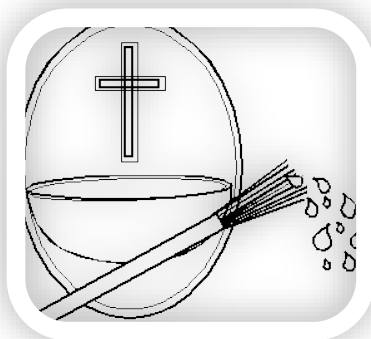
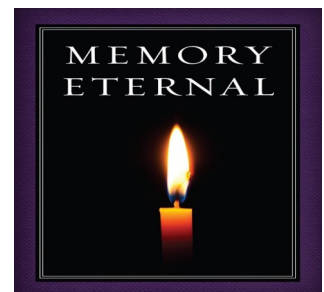
January 11, 2026

♦40 Day memorial service for Gismeh Sweis

January 18, 2026

♦40 Day memorial Service for Samira Farah

♦1-year memorial service for Sam Mousa



Monday, January 5th: The Great Blessing of Water Service will be held at **6pm.**

Social Coffee Hour Sponsors for the month of January

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Dr. Justin and Lora Bateh
Tyler and Katrina Bateh
Aida Bateh
David and Renee Bateh

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Sammy and Ghada Batteh
Besima Batteh
Kamel and Maha Batteh
Sharon Beatty

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Simon and Missie Bitar
Badia / Steve Bitar
Raymond and Christine Butrus
Judy / Karina Cadora

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Jeremy and Nichole Campbell
Timothy and Christine Conner
Adnan and Mouna Dayoub
Jacob and Bertha Deeb



A Prayer for the Coming New Year



"Lord, as we step into 2026, I surrender everything to You—my fears, my hopes, and my plans. I lay them all at Your feet..."

"Guide me by Your will, strengthen me by Your grace, and make this year fruitful for Your glory".

"O Lord, our God, we thank You for preserving us through the past year and bringing us to this new beginning. Forgive our sins, and grant us wisdom to live righteously, strength to serve You, and peace in our hearts. Bless our families, heal the sick, comfort the suffering, and guide Your Church. May this year, 2026, be a testament to Your mercy and grace, as we strive to do Your holy will and grow in love for You and our neighbor, through Christ our Lord. Amen"



Archpriest Dr. Kamal Arahil's Vacation Notice

Abuna Kamal and his family are on vacation from Monday, December 29, 2025 through Saturday January 3, 2026.

St . George Church - Bus Trip



Date: **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Arrival to church parking Lot : **6:00AM**

Departure: LEAVING St. George Parking Lot at **6:30 AM** Sharp.

Church Organizational Meetings



♦ **Tuesday, January 13, 2026:** Ladies Auxiliary meeting at 6:00 PM

♦ **Monday, January 19, 2026:** Parish Council meeting at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 20, 2026: Young Adult meeting at 6:30 PM

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Salwa Akel (1), Christopher Bateh (2),
Shadia Odeh (3), Joy Mary Aouil (3),
Jeanette Jubran (5), Ava Katherine Salman (7),
Andrew John Mousa (7), Grace Farhat (7)
Jennifer Salameh (7), Najah El-Abu (7),
Madison Grace Fakhouri (7), Grace Gazaleh (7) ,
Kristie Saoud Johnston (8), Jamal Gazaleh (8),
Yacoub Akel (9), Jonathan Essa Farhat (9), Jaime Eadeh (9),
Kimberly Farah Santa Lucia (10), Mike Salameh, Jr. (10),
Kaley Ann Farhat (10), Nicole Bateh (11), Cynthia Salameh (12),
Jad Hanania (13), Judy Cadora (13), Bassam Farah (14),
Abe Z. Farhat (15), Yacoub Zacharia (17), Kelly Salem (15),
Tom Hishmeh (15), Dr. Waddah Salman (16), Victor Bishara (17),
George El-Abu (18), Caroline Farhat (18), Tamara Anki Husari (20),
Joseph Farhat (20), Angela Farhat (21), Asad (Sammy) Jubran (21), Issa Odeh (21),
Immanuel Ramzi Salameh (21), Michael E. Salem (21), Raghuram Krishnamachari (22),
Laila Salameh (23), Nadya Farah (24), Basem Salameh (24), Johnny Salameh (24),
Anthony Victor Hanania (24), Michael Andrew Kalil (25), Daniel Hanna (26),
Isabelle Helen Essa (26), Ghayath Jeries Eways (27), Andrew Salem (28),
Lilia Catherine Mousa (28), Christina F. Bateh (29), Jad Raymond Butrus (29),
Tyler Bateh (30), Jeanette Z. Farhat (31), Jennifer Farah (31).



Happy Anniversary to:

Saad & Charlotte Ghanem (9),
George & Lamia Saoud (11),
Raed and Hiba Ghawi (24),
Andrew and Natalie Salem (25).
Leopoldo and Lena (Haddad) Quinones (25)



Congratulations to all our Parishioners & Friends who are celebrating their Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries in the month of January



2026 Annual General Assembly Sunday, February 8th, 2026

The Parish Council is made up of **12** members (elected for 3 years by the General Assembly), 3 members appointed for one year by the Pastor, and all of the Organizations' Presidents.

Every year the council elects from within its ranks, a chairperson and executive officers. In addition, committees are appointed to run the affairs of the parish.

The Pastor, as the appointed representative of the Metropolitan, has the ultimate responsibility for our church. For a synergistic and effective arrangement of our church, the priest, the council, and every parishioner has to work in harmony, much like the Holy Trinity is three persons in one, so must this relationship be.

Qualification Requirements

A candidate must:

A– He/ She must be twenty years of age or older.

B– He/ She has been a voting member of the parish for a period of the past two consecutive years, and has met his/her financial pledge to the church.

C– He/ She has fulfilled the Communicant's requirements of the Orthodox faith; (meaning in good standing spiritually).

A nominating committee is appointed every year to search for the candidates that can best serve the needs of our church.

If you are interested please Call **ONE of the Nominating Committee members below:**

Fr. Kamal Al-Rahil, Pastor @ 904-448-1855

Miss . Beverly Michael, Parish Council Chairwoman @ 904-333-5671

Mr. Jad Hanania ; Parish Council Vice Chair @ 904-655-1945

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE

"Funeral Policy and Customs"

"This document outlines the funeral customs and policy at St. George Church, Jacksonville, FL."

A **One (1)-Day** service package includes viewing, funeral service, and Burial/Interment...

Viewing / Visitation: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

This means that the viewing or visitation period for the deceased will be open from **9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**, allowing people to come and pay their respects for a timeframe ranging from one hour to a maximum of one and a half hours.

Funeral Service Begins at 10:30 AM

(Eulogies will be given after the main funeral service)

This means that when people come to pay their respects during the viewing hours, there will be no formal speeches or eulogies given; all eulogies will be delivered solely at the conclusion of the funeral service itself.

Key points to remember:

Viewing is for quiet reflection:

During the viewing time, people can simply come to see the deceased, offer condolences to the family in a quiet and respectful manner, and share personal memories without a structured speech.

Eulogies at the service: The designated time for sharing stories and eulogies about the deceased will be at the end of the funeral service, where everyone will gather for the main ceremony.

Please note: Fr. Kamal has the **discretion** to approve an additional evening visitation or viewing period solely based on **necessity** and specific circumstances; otherwise, it is a one-day service

Interment Service, a Trisagion Prayers, at the graveside

(after the Funeral service)

An "**Interment Service with Trisagion Prayers**" at the graveside, following a funeral, refers to a brief ceremony where a priest or religious leader recites the Trisagion prayer, a traditional Orthodox prayer meaning "thrice holy," as the deceased is laid to rest, essentially marking the final act of burial and offering prayers for the departed soul to find peace in the afterlife.

Orthodox Funeral Traditions

The body of a departed communicant of the Church should be brought into the church on the day of burial.

- ♦ Burials **may not be celebrated** on **Sundays** during the year.
- ♦ Burials **should not be celebrated** on Great Feast days and the body should not be brought into the church.
- ♦ Burials **may not be celebrated** on Holy Friday, Holy Saturday, or the Sunday of Pascha. The body **is not brought** into the church on those days

Mercy Meal after Interment

A "**Mercy Meal**" refers to a meal shared by family and friends after a burial service.

"**Mercy**" signifies the act of showing compassion and kindness, reflecting the purpose of the meal to provide support to the grieving family.

Memorial Donations / Gifts

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of your departed loved ones to Saint George Orthodox Church.

[**Donating** to a church **in memory** of a loved one is a meaningful way to honor their life and legacy by contributing to a cause they likely valued, allowing their memory to live on through positive action while also providing support to the church ministries that may have been important to them; it's a way to turn grief into a positive act of giving back.]

Memorial Services

It is the custom now at our St. George church to have memorial services on the **40th, 6 months, and 1 year after death**. The day of death is counted as the **first** day.

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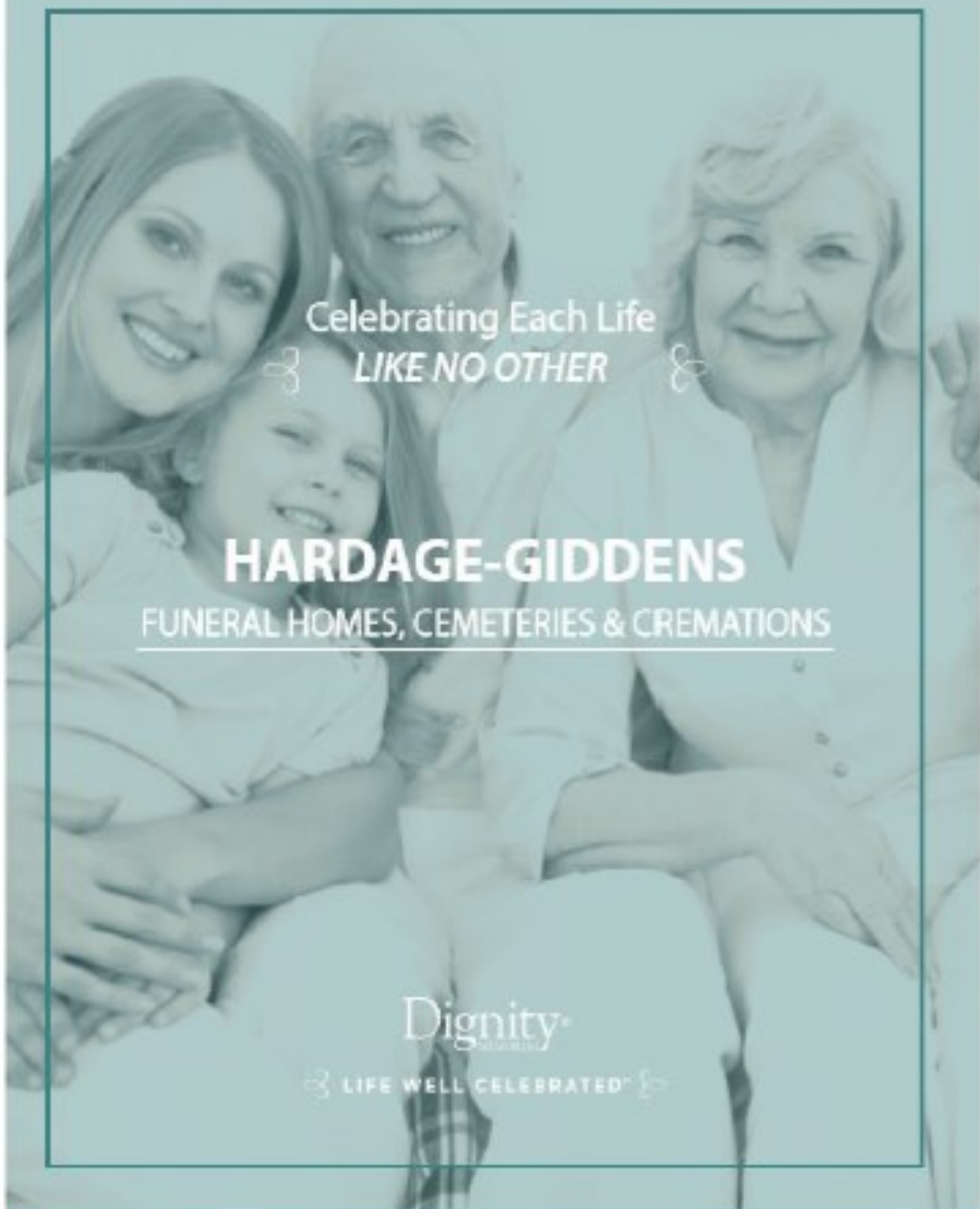


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