

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH كَنِيسَةُ الْقَدِّيسِ جَاورْجِيُوسِ الْأَنْطَاكِيَةِ الْأَرْثُودُكْسِيَّةِ

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



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council



**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, October 11, 2026

Teens serving as ushers

See schedule for details on page 4

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...*)

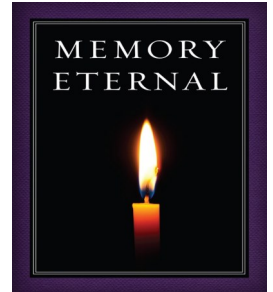
You may call the church office at 904- 448- 1855 for questions about reservation dates and availability.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

40 Day Memorial Service + **Mahran Salman** (*Abu Tameem*) offered by his children and grand children. Memory Eternal!



Vera Hishmeh and family

In memory of *Loraine (Hishmeh) Carolle* and Tom Hishmeh. Memory Eternal!

Grace Farhat and family

In memory of Jamal Farhat. Memory Eternal!

Upcoming Memorials

October 18th: 1 year +Sam Newey

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH!

Support our youth this upcoming Sunday, October 11, 2026, for their special Charity Collection.



We invite you to be generous and help our young people make a meaningful impact. Please remember to bring cash with you. Your contributions will directly support their mission to help others in need. Thank you for empowering our youth and changing lives!

Church ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER IS TEEN SOYO MONTH !

October Meetings

Wednesday, October 7th: TEEN SOYO Meeting and Fellowship at 6:30pm

Thursday, October 8th: Ladies Auxiliary Meeting @6:00pm

Monday, October 19th: Parish Council Meeting @7:00pm

English Epistle Readers for the month of October



Sunday October 11th: Edmond Saoud

Sunday October 18th: Victor Kassees

Sunday October 25th: Genevieve Farha

Head Ushers: Issa Odeh and Nick Jospheh

Ushers for the month of October

Sunday October 11th: Juliana Fakhouri, Jessica Dham,
Luna Samaan

Sunday October 18th: Victor Kassees, Christian Bajalia and
Andrew Rustom

Sunday October 25th: Maya Kader, Christa Sanam and
Maria Fahdi



SOCIAL COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Dr. Waddah and Hala Salman
Zaher and Nancy Salloum
Samer and Rana Salloum
Azmi and Victoria Samaan

Sunday, October 18, 2025

Amer and Mania Samaan
Randa Saman
George and Lamia Saoud
Edmond and Hikmat Saoud



Sunday, October 25, 2026

George ad Odette Shaqareq
Marwan and Zakia Skaf
Atallah and Helen Tannous
Widad Zacharia

Newly Married

"O Lord, our God, crown them with glory and honor."

"أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُنَا بِالْمَجْدِ وَالْكَرَامَةِ كُلِّهِمَا"

Congratulations to **Fuad Shadeh and Nadine Fakhouri**,
who were united in holy matrimony on
Saturday, October 3, 2026

We share in the joy of their parents:

George and Renda Shadeh (Kandah)

Majed Fakhouri



*May you always walk together in the happy ways of love,
trusting in the grace of God to lead you from above.*

May He bless you abundantly with a lifetime of joy and happiness!



Get ready to ignite the night because the ultimate Family Night & Bonfire is back for Youth Month!

Sunday School, Teen SOYO, and their families are inviting *everyone*, kids, teens, and adults—to an unforgettable, high-energy evening packed with warmth, amazing food, and non-stop fun! Mark your calendars for

Friday, October 16, 2026, from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** in the Church Hall & Back Parking Lot.

Here is everything you need to know:

The Date: **Friday, October 16, 2026**—the perfect way to kick off your weekend!

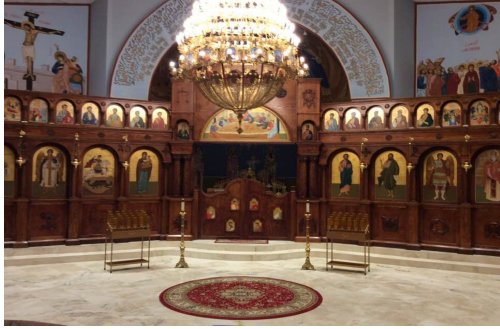
The Food: Bring your appetite! Feast on a **fantastic spread** of delicious food, then cozy up by the flames for the ultimate bonfire experience complete with hot cocoa and gooey, classic s'mores.

The Games & Karaoke: Get ready to bring the energy! We are pumping up the volume with **epic games** and an electric **Karaoke Musical style** lineup that will have all ages laughing, singing, and moving!

The Price: An unbelievable deal of just **\$20 per family (household)** for an entire night of food, music, karaoke, and entertainment!

Don't miss out! RSVP and pre-payment are strictly required on or before **Sunday, October 11, 2026**. See Khourieh Ranwa in the church hall to lock in your spot today!





From Our Church to Your House:

The True Meaning of Church and Its Sacred Setting

Sunday is the Day of the Lord. It is a sacred time, radically set apart from the rest of the week, for us to gather in holy assembly. We enter the temple to thank God for our lives, our health, our families, and His endless blessings, offering Him our sacrificial praise.

As Scripture warns us:

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools..." — Ecclesiastes 5:1

In a fast-paced, modern world, it is easy to lose sight of what the church truly is.

Parishioners sometimes look outward and ask, "Why do other churches host parties / Hafli all the time, while ours does not?"

Our answer is grounded in ancient truth: The Church is a **place** of solemn worship and holy fellowship, **not a venue** for secular entertainment and parties. We do celebrate, and we celebrate abundantly, but our joy is always transfigured within the beautiful, reverent context of a spiritual setting.

Understanding the Spiritual Setting of the Church

There is an absolute, **uncompromising** line between the **Church** of Christ and a **social club**. The Church is the living House of God, the gate of heaven, and a sacred sanctuary dedicated exclusively to the liturgy, deep prayer, and the awe-inspiring reverence of the Almighty. It is not a secular event space to be rented or adapted for worldly amusement.

When we **confuse** entertainment with divine worship, we dilute the sacred. *Entertainment seeks to amuse and distract the human ego; worship seeks to humble the soul and glorify God.*

True Orthodox fellowship is never a secular party under a church roof—it is an extension of the altar, always anchored in our faith:

"Article continued on next page"

Holy Fellowship vs. Secular Partying: We joyfully host community activities, cultural gatherings, and fundraisers. However, every event is intentionally designed to serve the spiritual, charitable, and relational mission of the Church. True Christian fellowship (koinonia) builds up the soul through mutual love and support; it does not require us to turn the church grounds into a nightclub or a banquet hall.

A Sanctuary, Not a Venue: Our communal joy comes from holy celebration, authentic community unity, and honoring our sacred traditions. We do not need to copy the fleeting, loud entertainment of the secular world to feel alive. The peace found in the sanctuary is far deeper than any excitement found in a party.

Preserving Our Sacred Identity: St. George Orthodox Church is not in competition with modern, worldly trends. We **do not alter** our identity to chase cultural relevance. We are a family-oriented, home-focused community deeply rooted in the unchanging, ancient Christian traditions of the Middle East. **We preserve what is holy so that it may preserve us.**

A Vital Reminder: Respecting God's Time

To truly experience the transformative power of the Church, we **must arrive before** the start of the Divine Liturgy. **Entering late**—especially after the reading of the Holy Gospel or arriving at the tail end of the service—signals that our priority is the social coffee hour rather than entering into the presence of the Living God. We cannot truthfully claim we kept the Lord's Day holy if we only showed up to socialize. Coming to church solely for the social gathering treats the temple as a lounge and reduces the body of Christ to a mere civic club.

Please respect God's time. Let us offer Him our "**first fruits**" our punctuality, our full attention, and our deepest reverence—before we share in the joy of coffee hour. Let us first be filled with Christ, so that our fellowship with one another may be truly blessed.



Our Church, Your Home: United in Spirit

WHAT'S NEW AT ST GEORGE

Looking for the **perfect touch** for your next **family milestone** or **holy sacrament**? Everything you need is right here at St. George!

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