

**DAILY VITAMINS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
CLOSING THE GATE THROUGH CONFESSION

The visiting preacher asked a dying man, whether there was anything he wanted to say before he slipped away. "No," the man replied, "I think that in this life, I have closed all the gates behind me". The dying man meant that he had learned the secret of putting the past behind him, including failures and disappointments, so that they wouldn't rob him of his joy and peace.

As Orthodox Christians, we should know that secret well. When we sin, we can "close the gate" to nagging guilt by confessing our sins to the Lord and accepting his forgiveness. Or if we have a misunderstanding with someone, rather than allowing the irritation to fester, we go to that person, make things right, and then forgive and forget the wrong.

**St. George Orthodox Church**  
6300 Bowden Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
[www.JaxOrthodox.com](http://www.JaxOrthodox.com)  
Address Service Requested



# The Faith

**The Newsletter of St. George**

**February 28, 2021**

*6300 Bowden Road, Jacksonville, FL 32216*

♦ (W) 904-448-1855 \* (Fax) 904-448-1866

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

*V. Rev. Fr. Kamal Al-Rahil; Pastor*

## *Prodigal Son*

*Tone 5 Eothinon 5*

*Epistle: I Cor. 6:12-20*

*Gospel: Luke 15:11-32*

## *Sunday Services*

*Matins ~ 9:00 AM*

*Divine Liturgy ~ 10:00 AM*

*Office Hrs.:*

*Monday - Friday*

*9:00 AM - 1:00 PM*

*Confession by appointment*

## **Church Banquet Hall**

**Capacity: 160 people seated**

**NO Hall Rental during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Church Hall is Closed until further notice....**

## Servers for Sunday February 28th, 2021

### Epistle Readers:

**English:** Tarek Kishek

**Arabic:** George Baghdan

### Chanters:

Sbdn. Nadeem Tannous

George Baghdan

Tarek Kishek

### Ushers:

Abe Kassees & Issa Odeh

### Altar Servers:

Ameen Hakim, Jamil and Jean Fayad, Nicholas and Anthony Odeh.

## Holy Bread of Oblation for Sunday February 28

1. In loving memory of **Jamil Diab Fayad (memorial service)**, offered by Bashar and Nagham Fayad and their families. May his memory be eternal.
2. In loving memory of **Elias and Ahlam Al-Hirsh**, offered by Abla Al-Hirsh and her family. May their memory be eternal.
3. In loving memory of **Isaac Salameh (16yrs.)**, offered by Basem and Nahida Salameh. May his memory be eternal.
4. For the health and spiritual welfare of **Khourieh Nawall Elias**, her children and grandchildren, offered by Khourieh Nawall Elias.

## Our Journey to Pascha! 2021

There are twelve major feasts during the year, but there is only one Feast of Feasts: Pascha! The date on which Pascha falls determines the dates for many significant events in the church year, from the pre-Lenten period through Pentecost.

The preparation for Pascha begins several weeks in advance of Great Lent. Each Sunday leading up to Pascha has its own theme and iconography.

Services are more frequent during this period, and many are not offered any other time during the church year. If you are interested in the Orthodox Church, this is a great opportunity to come and explore. Check our calendar on the home page for the full schedule of services.

**The Sundays immediately following Pascha also have distinct themes, leading up to the Feast of Pentecost.**

February 21 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

February 28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

March 7 Meat fare Sunday (Sunday of the Last Judgment)

March 14 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

**March 15 Great Lent Begins (Monday)**

March 21 Triumph of Orthodoxy

March 28 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

April 4 Sunday of the Holy Cross

April 18 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

April 25 Palm Sunday (Great Lent ends; Holy Week begins)

**May 2 Great and Holy Pascha: the Feast of Feasts (Easter)**

May 9 St. Thomas Sunday (1st Sunday after Pascha)

May 16 The Myrrh-Bearing Women (2nd Sunday after Pascha)

May 23 The Paralyzed Man (3rd Sunday after Pascha)

May 30 The Samaritan Woman (4th Sunday after Pascha)

June 6 The Blind Man (5th Sunday after Pascha)

June 10 The Ascension of our Lord (Thursday)

June 13 The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (6th Sunday after Pascha)

**June 20 Pentecost**

June 27 Sunday of All Saints

## 2021 Parish Council Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Parish Council and they are:

- ♦ *Diana Farhat: Chairwoman*
- ♦ *Jonathan Essa: Vice Chair*
- ♦ *Ameen Hakim: CFO*
- ♦ *Karina Cadora: Treasurer*
- ♦ *Simon Bitar: Financial Secretary*
- ♦ *Abe Kassees: Recording Secretary*



### March is Antiochian Women's Month!

The **month of March**, designated as Antiochian Women's Month by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, is a time when the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America encourage their sisters in Christ to participate in the Liturgy and minister in their parishes and their communities.

Throughout the Archdiocese, you will see the Ladies reading the Epistle, Colleting trays, Ushering etc... We highlight the wonderful works of the Antiochian Women all over North America.

A lot of fun activities, Fundraisers, special events, and a lot more...**Stay Tuned!**

## Membership Dues:

Steady cash flow is **VITAL** for the continuity of St. George Church and its ministries.

if you are **financially able**, we would appreciate your contributions (donations) to your beloved St. George Church.

### Three methods of Payment for Your Pledge Dues

1. **Check / Cash** may be sent via mail to the church office, or you may place it on Sunday Tray Collection (Basket is located in the Church Foyer.)
2. **Bill Pay: Online Bill Pay**, is set up through your Bank Acct.
3. **PayPal** : Donate online via Credit Card. It is a secure online donation through our church website: **www. Jaxorthodox.com**

## PRAYERS CORNER

*Lord, You are the physician of our souls and body. We pray You grant the following parishioners good health and blessings:*

Sue Rafidi, Yousef Zacharia, Farid N. Bateh, Suha Bateh, Eddie Bateh, Zohour Anki, Abla Mousa, Jamal Hanania, Albert and Betty Kishek, Sam and Pam Newey, Jack Farah Jr, Anwar Eadeh, and Jack & Kathy Akel.

*And*

**All those** who work in the medical field and first responders.

*And*

**All those** who are fighting Covid-19.

## Church Attendance Capacity

Dear friends, family, and beautiful community,

At present we are gathering for all scheduled services, but are limited to **30%** of our building capacity **up to 100** attendees( **Max**) every week.

**Visitors** are welcome, and are encouraged to email us or call us when planning a visit!

### It is Mandatory To Register Every Week!!

**You must sign up each week.** Please call the church office or **text** Fr. Kamal or Kh. Ranwa **between Monday and Friday.** **No** registration on Saturdays. Also please **follow chart below** and plan to attend Sunday Service in person during your family turn!!

### February / March Church Attendance Chart

- ♦ **Sunday February 28 : Strictly K-Z families**
- ♦ **Sunday March 7: A-J families**
- ♦ **Sunday March 14: K-Z families**
- ♦ **Sunday March 21: A-J families**
- ♦ **Sunday March 28: K-Z families**

The church will be maintaining a list of those who signed up, and names will be checked at the door as well.

As always, St. George services will continue to **be live-streamed.**

All **non-liturgical activities** are subject to special approval by Fr. Kamal and Bishop Nicholas.

## +Funeral and Memorial Services Updates+

Taking nothing for granted, and with thanks to God, we remain responsibly vigilant in doing what we can to stay as virus-free as possible and to ensure the safety of all our beloved parishioners.

The following rules and guidelines **must** be followed in regards funeral and memorial services.

**As of February 23rd and forward,** Funeral service will be done in the Church building (**ONE DAY SERVICE ONLY**) **Limited** to the immediate family up to **60** peoples.

- ♦ Funeral Service will be live streamed via church Facebook. (optional)
- ♦ Those who do plan to attend funeral service in person must adhere to all CDC guidelines by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.
- ♦ **Condolences** could be offered through Phone calls, Text messages, or social Media.
- ♦ **In lieu of flowers,** donations may be made in honor of your departed loved ones to Saint George Orthodox Church **or** your favorite charity as flowers used in the funeral service are discontinued during this pandemic until further notice .

### Memorial Services; 40 Day., 6 mos., or 1 year Guidelines:

- 1.** Please call Fr. Kamal to schedule a memorial service for your departed loved one (**2 weeks**) prior.
- 2.** A memorial service for your departed one is to be done during your family turn (**A- J or K-Z**). Please follow our weekly schedule charts.
- 3.** Each family is allowed to bring up to **20** attendees. The rest of the extended family, relatives and friends will pray with us **virtually**, **unless** it is their turn to attend church that Sunday.
- 4. Twenty dollars (\$20)** for Holy Bread will be given to the church directly. You will receive a loaf of bread in memory of your loved ones at the end of the service.