

June 23, 2024

Blessings on the Feast of Pentecost!

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. If you are a first-time visitor, please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you after liturgy, so feel free to join us during Coffee Fellowship! Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "*Liturgy*" means *work of the people* that means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion for Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command *to eat His Body and drink His Blood*. In order to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion, the faithful should fast (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and striving to always love God and their neighbor. Frequent communion and regular confession are recommended for all faithful Orthodox Christians.

For other Christians: We welcome you to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of our community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, but for which we must all pray. All, however, are welcome to partake of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) which will be given when coming forward to venerate (kiss) the Holy Cross and receive the final blessing from the priest. Again, welcome!

Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners and visitors. If you cannot attend, please pray with us through our livestream which can be seen on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintGeorgeOrthodoxChurchFlintMI>

If you have a smart TV, you actually have a web browser and YouTube app built in. All you have to do is start the browser app for YouTube and put the link in the address bar.

Holy Bread Offerings (Oblations)

- Emil and Eline Abueita for the health of their family especially for Aunt **Soad** and brother-in-law **Khalil** who are visiting, and son **Elias** on the occasion of his 27th birthday ~ *May God grant them many years!*
- Karam and Aida Nassar for the health of their family especially son **Fred** and niece **Heather** on the occasion of their birthdays ~ *May God grant them many years!*

BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Yasmeen Mitri** ~ June 29th

May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Bishop Anthony, Fr. Joe Abud, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq Abuaitah, Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, Khaled Al-Khouri, William Alsahouri, Naila Banna, Douglas Coone, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Phyllis Good, Ronald Haddad, Daisy Isaac, John Joseph, Mila Mitri, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Aida Nassar, Laura Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Adam Odeh, Nimer Rishmawi, Elaine Shaheen, and Michael and Nancy Silpoch**; your servants **Jaden Turner, Evan Sandford, and Maria Kirk** who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servant of God who has fallen asleep in the Lord: **Sally Joseph** (+May 26th) ~ *may her memory be eternal!*
- We also pray for our Expectant Parents: **Liana and Hanna Abuaita, Stephanie and Nadim Burbar, and Natania and Rene Hanna.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BANQUET CENTER RENTAL Our Center is rented today. Please be respectful to our renters and their guests by not disturbing their event ~ Thank You!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is in our Lounge and not hosted today ☹️. Please offer a donation to help cover our costs, thank you!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: July 7th and 14th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information are in the Lounge. Hosting includes bringing whatever you wish to serve, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$30. **For more information**, please contact our coordinator Manal Abuaita 810-577-0028.

FR. JOE UPDATE The cancer in my lung is GONE! Got the news from the oncologist last week ~ thank God in all things! Please continue with your God-loving prayers and may God bless and be with you always! Love, Fr. Joe

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 255/2024

June 10, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Christ is risen!

Since my arrival as your Metropolitan, I have been concerned that two dioceses of our vast archdiocese are without a bishop to oversee them: Los Angeles and the West, and Wichita and Mid-America. Although we are not yet ready for an election of new bishops, I want to ensure that these dioceses have the attention and care they need.

In particular, during my recent travels in the West, I saw firsthand that our clergy and parishes there need an experienced bishop, since they have for a long time been without a local bishop who permanently resides among them. Therefore, I have asked His Grace Bishop Anthony—who has served well and faithfully for many years—to move to Los Angeles and serve as Bishop in the West. We are grateful that he has taken this diocese's needs to heart and accepted this assignment, which will be effective August 1, 2024.

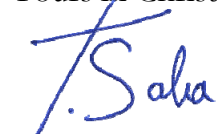
With His Grace's transfer to Los Angeles, I am assigning the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. Additionally, I am assigning the Rev. Hieromonk Calinic (Berger) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America—God-willing, I will elevate him to the rank and dignity of Archimandrite this Thursday, on the Feast of the Ascension. Finally, I am assigning the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Paul (Matar) as Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C., so that these parishes can have special care and attention as I can focus on archdiocesan matters. All of these assignments will also be effective August 1, 2024.

As archiepiscopal vicars, these archimandrites will fulfill, in their respective dioceses, the same pastoral and administrative role as our bishops: for example, visiting parishes, providing guidance and permissions to the diocesan clergy, addressing parish issues that cannot be solved at the local or deanery level, providing recommendations for seminary and ordination candidates, and presiding over diocesan organizations and events (Archimandrite Paul will assist His Grace Bishop Thomas with the Eastern Dioceses' shared organizations and events, for example, the Antiochian Women of the East and the PLC). Archimandrites Jeremy and Calinic will be relocating to the Toledo and Wichita chanceries, respectively. Archimandrite Paul will continue in his role at our archdiocese headquarters.

The holy apostle Paul has instructed us that “all things should be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). Just as we rely on our priests to ensure that their parishes function harmoniously in this way, so do we rely on our bishops—and now our archiepiscopal vicars—to lead their dioceses toward the same goal. In this light, I have full confidence in His Grace Bishop Anthony, Archimandrite Jeremy, Archimandrite Paul, and (soon to be) Archimandrite Calinic as they embark on these new ministries. We hope that, with God’s help and everyone’s cooperation and goodwill, these plans will prove to be fruitful for the future of our God-protected archdiocese.

Wishing you much joy as we complete the Paschal season and celebrate Holy Pentecost, I remain,

Yours in Christ,



✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

June 15, 2024

Dear fellows ministers and brothers in our Lord,

Though given and accepting another assignment for our common good in this God-protected archdiocese, I do not stop being your friend and spiritual father. I am not leaving anyone behind, rather I am finding others ahead of me. Now, I extend the embrace of Christ that we see on the Cross, which we also have seen when Christ welcomed His holy apostles after the Resurrection, to include the Diocese of LA and the West to the glory of God.

The Midwest has always been home for me, both before my ordination to the priesthood, and my subsequent episcopal consecration. My soul has already been enriched and fortified by all of you. In fact, as I look at the icons of Christ and His mother and all the saints, and I see my own identity, in them, I see you all as icons that frame this personal spiritual identity. Therefore, I can no more forget you, than I can forget myself. Where I am will not distract from who I am, nor my own self-discovery that you have helped to show me.

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA has graciously told me that I would be able to return home to the Midwest for visits as my schedule allows. As the English poet John Donne has said “No man is an island entire of itself, but each is a part of the whole.” And to give a scriptural quote: “there is one body and one spirit, just as you are called to one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:1-6). That unity connects us. Geography does not stand in the way of unity.

My Own Move in Our Church on the Move: Expansion not Partition

We are in uncharted and unprecedented territory. We are like the early American explorers, mapping the United States. So the swell of convert and immigrant believers is a great movement forward, filling the sacred space of the Church. The social and religious environmental shifts, the tremors of change, opening cracks in the surface of the spiritual foundations that are traditional of the American experience, has left a bewildering sense of unease in many souls. Orthodoxy is, as it has always been, one, stable, predictable, dependable, and enduring faith. The gospel itself, in its entirety, is wondrously summarized in the triumphant hymn of the church: Christ is risen!

Orthodoxy concerns us not only with the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter Who comes from the Father and Who communicates all of Christ’s life to us; but also, and perhaps uniquely, it shows us the behavior of Christ; not only His thoughts, but also His actions, not only His actions, but also His attitudes towards people, places, things, human destinies, hopes and dreams.

We must look beyond the regions of geography, beyond the still horizon of seasons and of moving, changing landscapes of beliefs around us; and in this expanding panoramic picture, we must gather, and like a good infantry in an army, move to face the challenge which waits for us.

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623

These recent changes in our organizational structure, as clearly outlined and explained by His Eminence Metropolitan SABA in his previous letter, requires us to answer the call for cooperation in a common spiritual work and for sharing whatever expertise and talents given to us by God for each other. *“Do I make my plans like a worldly man, ready to say yes and no at once? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been yes and no. For the Son of God Jesus Christ whom we preached among you, ... was not yes and no; but in Him it is always yes”* (2 Corinthians 1:17-19). We must all then step up when called, stand in formation and at the command of Christ go forward.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 271/2024

June 19, 2024

The Very Reverend Father Joseph Abud
via email: njja@aol.com

Beloved in Christ, Father Joseph,

Greetings and blessings to you and Kh. Leslee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are in receipt of your email of June 14, 2024, requesting retirement from active ministry. In light of the reasons you mentioned in your email, I do grant you my blessing to retire from active ministry effective August 1, 2024. You will remain canonically attached to St. George Church following your retirement, under the pastorship of your successor.

In light of your service to our Archdiocese, I am also awarding you a retired-priest housing allowance of \$640.08 per month, effective with your retirement. This figure is based on your years in full-time priestly ministry through 2012, when the housing-allowance system was replaced with our current contribution-based retirement plan: 24 years of service (through 2012) times \$26.67 per year of service. If you have any questions about the housing allowance, please contact Rt. Rev. Archim. Paul (Matar), at our archdiocese headquarters in Englewood (201-871-1355, ext. 106; frpaul@antiochian.org).

Thank you for your service to the Archdiocese as a priest over the past 37 years. Your leadership of St. George Church for 36 years will certainly leave a lasting legacy in the hearts of those to whom you have ministered. I pray that retirement will give you an opportunity for rest and renewal and that the Lord will grant you and Kh. Leslee health and long life. Although circumstances may require a priest to step back from the demands of active ministry, we know that priesthood is a lifelong calling and continues even into the next world. May the Lord continue to bring fruit from your ministry, even in retirement.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is stylized and appears to be written with a pen or marker.

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

cc: His Grace Bishop Anthony; Rt. Rev. Archim. Paul (Matar); V. Rev. Fr. Thomas Zain; Mrs. Marlene Ayoub, Registrar

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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Archbishop of New York
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**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 273/2024

June 20, 2024

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Flint, Michigan
Attn: V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Abud and the Members of the Parish Council
via email: njja@aol.com

Beloved in Christ, Father Joseph and esteemed Members of the Parish Council,

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

At Fr. Joseph's request, I have given him my blessing to retire from active ministry, effective August 1, 2024. We are most grateful for his dedicated and faithful priestly ministry over 38 years, and we pray God's blessings upon him and Kh. Leslee as they begin this new chapter of life. In light of Fr. Joseph's retirement, I am appointing the Very Reverend Father Amin Houli as your new pastor, effective August 1, 2024.

Fr. Amin was born in Damascus, Syria. He is married to Kh. Rena, and they have two children: Teodora (16) and Nicholas (14). He speaks English, Arabic, and Greek and pursued theological studies in Balamand, Lebanon, and Athens, Greece. He was ordained to the holy priesthood in 2005 and has pastored St. James Church in Loveland, Ohio, and (most recently) St. George Church in Terre Haute, Indiana. We have every confidence in him as he takes up this new assignment.

Fr. Amin can be reached at 248-709-1186 and fatherhouli@yahoo.com. Please be in touch with him to introduce yourselves and make plans for his family's move (as usual, your parish will need to pay his moving expenses). Also, at your earliest convenience, please submit your proposed initial compensation package for Fr. Amin (in accordance with the Archdiocesan Clergy Compensation Guidelines) to Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Paul (Matar) at our Archdiocese Headquarters, for approval (201-871-1355, ext. 106; frpaul@antiochian.org).

Wishing you a blessed feast of Pentecost and praying for all of God's blessings to be bestowed on Father Amin, his family, and all of you, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is stylized and appears to be written over a printed name.

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

cc: His Grace Bishop Anthony; Rt. Rev. Archimandrites Jeremy (Davis) and Paul (Matar); V. Rev. Frs. Thomas Zain (Vicar General) and Amin Houli; Mrs. Marlene Ayoub, Registrar

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Pentecost Sunday

June 23, 2024

Beloved clergy and faithful of our Midwest Family,

Christ has ascended! ... In glory! And He has sent us another Comforter. Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to inaugurate the public preaching of the Gospel. However, the real celebration of that day is our continuing to announce the same message. *“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ ... Repent ... be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:36-38*

In the Orthodox Church we **believe each one of us, is called upon by God to participate in that same public preaching** in some way. Some of us are to be those sent out. As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Ephesus, *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ...”*

You might be saying to yourself “I don’t think I am any of those. What can I do?” Here are three things each of us can do.

First, Pray the Lord to send out laborers and actively encourage it among your children, grandchildren and parish family. We encourage our children to get good jobs and be great at sports. Wonderful! Make as much effort to equip them for ministering the Gospel? The Lord said to His disciples, *“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”* Matthew 9:37-38

Second, do your part to make your local parish a place people would want to join. Be welcoming. Be present more than just Sunday morning. Visit a new mission to encourage them that they are not alone. Find your own way to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Third, financially support the active mission work being done in our diocese. Establishing new missions requires financial support for the workers God sends out, renting facilities, buying service books, advertising, and so much more. It can take several years to get a new location established so we come to you every year at Pentecost and ask your financial offering for this work. Be aware that in our diocese there are new missions and requests for new missions every year that need our help.

So, on this Pentecost Sunday we are asking for your donations to support the mission work being done in our diocese. Please give generously and consider making the diocese missions work a line item in your parish budget. Make checks payable to “Midwest Missions Council” and send them to:

Midwest Missions Council
c/o St George Orthodox Church
10748 E. 116th Street
Fishers, IN 46037

Yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623

PAN-ORTHODOX SOFTBALL GAME

Sunday, July 7, 2024
3:00pm



Drinks and Food provided
for questions call

Assumption Greek -Host

810-771-4611

or contact your parish coordinator

GAME LOCATION

St. John the Evangelist
Catholic School

(514 Lincoln St,
Fenton, MI 48430)



*The Pan-Orthodox Churches
of Genesee County*

Holy Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
(2245 E. Baldwin Rd Grand Blanc, MI)

St. George Orthodox Church
(5191 Lennon Rd Flint, MI)

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox
Church
(2439 S. Long Lake Rd Fenton, MI)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
(2143 S Center Rd Burton, MI)

