



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

عيد القديسين أثناسيوس وكيرلس رئيسي  
أساقفة الإسكندرية والأحد الثاني عشر من لوقا

THE FEAST OF SAINTS ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL,  
PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA AND  
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



The *Weekly Bulletin* is an official publication of  
Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois.  
*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.*



# Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس جاورجيوس الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

The Most Reverend Metropolitan **SABA, Primate**  
*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*  
The Right Reverend Archimandrite **Jeremy Davis, Archiepiscopal Vicar**  
*Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

The Very Reverend Father **Fouad Saba, Pastor**  
*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:26*

## **BROTHERHOOD OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH:**

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, *PASTOR*  
V. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Coronel, *ASSISTANT PRIEST*  
Dn. George Nassief  
Dn. John Zayed  
Dn. Moses Bynum  
Sdn. Mazen Khalifeh  
Sdn. Raymond Antypas  
Sdn. Youssef Selim  
Sdn. Mazen Rihani  
Protopsaltis Jameel Haddad, *CHANTER*  
Chadi Karam, *CHANTER / BYZANTINE CHOIR DIRECTOR*  
Matthew Ablan, *CHANTER*  
Faraj Shahrstan, *CHANTER*  
Trevor Lenhart, *CHOIR DIRECTOR*  
Ryan McMahon, *HEAD USHER*  
All Choir Members, Ushers, & Acolytes

## **CHURCH OFFICE:**

Veronica Egan, *OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR*  
Samar Rihani, *ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY*  
Holly Goljic, *GRAPHIC DESIGNER*  
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## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8:30 am–5:00 pm  
Saturday: By Appointment  
Sunday: Closed

## **2025 PARISH COUNCIL:**

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, *PRESIDING OFFICER*  
Elias Akkari, *CHAIRMAN*  
Dr. Johnny Kuttub, *VICE-CHAIRMAN*  
Victor Imreibe, *SECRETARY*  
Amir Rihani, *TREASURER*  
Mina Rantisi, *FINANCIAL SECRETARY*  
Fares Bannourah, *MEMBER*  
George Conopeotis, *MEMBER*  
Maher Eseed, *MEMBER*  
Jerjes Kahoush, *MEMBER*  
Michael Moukheiber, *MEMBER*  
Karen Nawas, *MEMBER*  
Suhail Qumri, *MEMBER*  
Joseph Rihani, *MEMBER*  
Steve Saba, *MEMBER*  
Eddy Shaheen, *MEMBER*

## **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

Abeer Kari, *ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN*  
Nina Ghanayem, *YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (YAF)*  
Angelina Imseeh, *TEEN SOYO*  
Darlene N. Haddad, *ARCHDIOCESE TRUSTEE*  
Eli Haig, *ARCHDIOCESE TRUSTEE*  
Mansour Rayan, *ARCHDIOCESE TRUSTEE /*  
*HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER*

## **EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

V. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Coronel, *CLERGY*  
Dn. George Nassief, *CLERGY*  
Dn. John Zayed, *CLERGY*  
Dn. Moses Bynum, *CLERGY*  
Lillian Rihani, *SUNDAY SCHOOL*  
Dena H. Fasheh, *THE ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS*  
Jerjes Kahoush, *ANTIOCHIAN MEN (A-MEN)*

## **WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE:**

Saturdays: Great Vespers as announced  
Sundays: 9:15am Orthros (Matins) and  
10:20am Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy  
Confession by Appointment

## **Welcome to Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church!**

This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic (Universal), and Apostolic Church. The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition, which express the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in **The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!** Receiving Holy Communion in this Church is to adhere and commit to the One True Church, the Orthodox Church.

Visitor(s), please feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your name(s) to the Ushers and introduce yourself to Father Saba at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

**Welcome! Ahlan wa Sahlan! أهلا وسهلا!**



## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Glory to Thee, who has shown us the Light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.

O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (thrice)

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.

O continue Thy lovingkindness unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

المَجْدُ لَكَ يَا مُظْهِرَ النُّورِ، المَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعَلَاءِ،  
وعلى الأرضِ السَّلامُ، وفي النَّاسِ المَسْرَّةُ  
نُسَبِّحُكَ نُبَارِكُكَ، نَسْجُدُ لَكَ نُمَجِّدُكَ، نَشْكُرُكَ مِنْ  
أَجْلِ عَظِيمِ جَلَالِ مَجْدِكَ

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ الْمَلِكُ، السَّمَاوِيُّ، الإلهُ، الآبُ الضَّابِطُ  
الْكُلِّ. أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ الْإِبْنُ الْوَحِيدُ، يَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحُ،  
ويا أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ الإلهُ، يَا حَمَلَ اللَّهِ يَا ابْنَ الآبِ، يَا رَافِعَ  
خَطِيئَةِ الْعَالَمِ ارْحَمْنَا، يَا رَافِعَ خَطَايَا الْعَالَمِ  
تَقَبَّلْ تَضَرُّعَنَا أَيُّهَا الْجَالِسُ عَنْ يَمِينِ الآبِ  
وَارْحَمْنَا

لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ قُدُّوسٌ، أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ الرَّبُّ  
يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحُ، فِي مَجْدِ اللَّهِ الآبِ، آمِينَ.  
فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ أَبَارِكُكَ، وَأُسَبِّحُ اسْمَكَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ،  
وَالْإِلَهِي إِلَى الْأَبَدِ

أَهْلُنَا يَا رَبُّ أَنْ نُحْفَظَ فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ بِغَيْرِ خَطِيئَةٍ.  
مُبَارَكَ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا، وَمُسَبِّحٌ وَمُمَجَّدٌ  
اسْمُكَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، آمِينَ

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا، كَمِثْلِ اتِّكَالِنَا عَلَيْكَ.  
مُبَارَكَ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ عَلِّمْنِي حَقُوقَكَ. (ثلاثاً)

يَا رَبُّ مَلْجَأُ كُنْتُ لَنَا فِي جِيلٍ وَجِيلٍ، أَنَا قُلْتُ  
يَا رَبُّ ارْحَمْنِي وَاشْفِ نَفْسِي لِأَنَّنِي قَدْ خَطِئْتُ  
إِلَيْكَ

يَا رَبُّ إِلَيْكَ لَجَأْتُ فَعَلِّمْنِي أَنْ أَعْمَلَ رِضَاكَ،  
لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ هُوَ إِلَهِي

لَأَنَّ مِنْ قِبَلِكَ عَيْنَ الْحَيَاةِ، وَبِنُورِكَ نَعَايُنُ النُّورَ.  
فَابْسُطْ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَعْرِفُونَكَ.

قُدُّوسُ اللَّهِ، قُدُّوسُ الْقَوِيِّ، قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ  
ارْحَمْنَا. (ثلاثاً)

المَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.

الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ، آمِينَ.

قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ ارْحَمْنَا.

قُدُّوسُ اللَّهِ، قُدُّوسُ الْقَوِيِّ، قُدُّوسُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ  
ارْحَمْنَا

# TODAY'S LITURGY INSERTS

## RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION (TONE 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

حَطَمْتَ بِصَلِيبِكَ الْمَوْتَ، وَفَتَحْتَ لِلصِّ الْفِرْدَوْسَ، وَحَوَّلْتَ نُوحَ حَامِلَاتِ الطِّيبِ، وَأَمَرْتَ رُسُلَكَ أَنْ يَكْرِزُوا، بِأَنَّكَ قَدْ قُمْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظْمَى.

## ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE GOSPEL BOOK

Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

هَلِّمُوا لِنَسْجُدَ وَنَزْكَعَ لِلْمَسِيحِ، مَلِكِنَا وَإِلَهِنَا. خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنُ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلِّلُوبِيا

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## TROPARION OF SAINTS ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL (TONE 3)

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, \* ye quenched every false belief and teaching \* and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. \* And since ye made all things rich with true piety, \* greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, \* Athanasius and wise Cyril, ye justly found Christ God, \* Who through your prayers doth grant Great Mercy unto all.

تَلَأَلْنَا بِأَفْعَالِكُمَا فِي سَبِيلِ الْإِيمَانِ الْقَوِيمِ، وَدَحَضْنَا كُلَّ تَعْلِيمٍ فَاسِدٍ، فَغَدَوْنَا ظَافِرَيْنِ حَامِلَيْنِ الْغَنَائِمِ، وَأَغْنَيْنَا الْجَمِيعَ بِالتَّقْوَى، وَزَيَّنْنَا الْكَنِيسَةَ زِينَةً عَظِيمَةً، فَأَهْلَيْنَا أَنْ تَجِدَا الْمَسِيحَ إِلَهُ، الْوَاهِبَ الْجَمِيعَ عَظِيمَ الرَّحْمَةِ.

## TROPARION OF SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR (TONE 4)

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

بِمَا أَنْتَ لِلْمَأْسُورِينَ مُحَرِّرٌ وَمُعْتِقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ وَلِلْمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ وَعَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشُّهَدَاءِ جَاورِجِيوسُ اللَّابِسُ الظَّفَرَ تَشْفَعُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ إِلَهُ فِي خَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.



## KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (TONE 1)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، يَا مَنْ بِمَوْلِدِهِ قَدَّسَ الْمُسْتَوْدَعَ الْبَتُولِيَّ، وَبَارَكَ يَدَيَّ سِمْعَانَ كَمَا لاقَ، وَأَدْرَكْنَا الْآنَ وَخَلَّصْنَا؛ إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ فِي الْحُرُوبِ، وَأَيِّدِ الْمُلُوكَ الَّذِينَ أَحَبَّبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.

## KONTAKION FOR THE MIRACULOUS WEeping ICON (TONE 8)

*Only at Saint George Church in Cicero*

To thee the champion leader, \* I thy city offer thanks of victory. \* O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror. \* But as thou hast that power which is invincible, \* From all dangers set me free and deliver me. That I may cry unto thee: \* Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

إِنِّي أَنَا عَبْدُكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ \* اكْتُبْ لِي رَايَاتِ الْغَلْبَةِ يَا جُنْدِيَّةَ مُحَامِيَّةَ \* وَأَقْدِمْ لِي الشُّكْرَ كَمُنْقَذَةٍ مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ \* لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لِي الْعِزَّةَ الَّتِي لَا تُحَارَبُ \* اعْتَقِنِي مِنْ صُنُوفِ الشَّدَائِدِ \* حَتَّى أَصْرُخَ إِلَيْكَ إِفْرَحِي يَا عَرُوساً لَا عَرُوسَ لَهَا.

## EPISTLE READERS

English

Arabic

Francesca Haig

Today

Alice Saba

Fadel Khoury

Jan 25

Sandy Eseed

## THE SYNAXARION

On January 18th in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Fathers among the Saints Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria.

*Athanasius hath died, yet I call him living, for the righteous live, though by death they be taken.*

*Today the memorial of the exile of Cyril, but not his ever-memorable death, creation keepeth.*

*On the eighteenth buried they Athanasius' dead body.*

These wise teachers of truth and defenders of Christ's Church share a joint Feast in recognition of their dogmatic writings which affirm the truth of the Orthodox Faith, correctly interpret the Holy Scripture, and censure the delusions of the heretics. Athanasius took part in the First Ecumenical Council when he was still a deacon. He surpassed everyone there in his zeal to uphold the teaching that Christ is consubstantial (homoousios) with the Father, and not merely a creature, as the Arians proclaimed. This radiant beacon of Orthodoxy spent most of his life in exile from his See, because of the plotting of his enemies. He returned to his flock as he was approaching the end of his life. Like an evening star, he illumined the Orthodox faithful with his words for a little while, and then reposed in 373. Cyril was the nephew of Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria, who educated him from his youth. He succeeded to his uncle's position in 412, but was deposed through the intrigues of the Nestorian heretics. He later resumed his See, however. Cyril presided at the Third Ecumenical Council in 431, which censured the Nestorian blasphemy against the Most Holy Theotokos. His wise words demonstrated the error of their false doctrine. Cyril departed to the Lord in 444.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Theodoula of Anazarbus and her companions; and Maximos, the Serbian ruler. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
For Thou are justified in all that Thou hast done  
for us.*

## The Reading from the Epistle of

### Saint Paul to the Hebrews (13:7-16)

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city, which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ

الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ (13:7-16)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، اذْكُرُوا مُدَبِّرِيكُمْ الَّذِينَ كَلَّمَوْكُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ  
اللَّهِ. تَأَمَّلُوا فِي عَاقِبَةِ تَصَرُّفِهِمْ وَاقْتَدُوا بِإِيمَانِهِمْ.  
إِنَّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ هُوَ، أَمْسَ وَالْيَوْمَ وَإِلَى  
مَدَى الدَّهْرِ. لَا تَتَّقَدُوا لِتَعَالِيمٍ مُتَنَوِّعَةٍ غَرِيبَةٍ.  
فَإِنَّهُ يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُثَبَّتَ الْقَلْبُ بِالنِّعْمَةِ لَا بِالْأَطْعِمَةِ  
الَّتِي لَمْ يَنْتَفِعِ الَّذِينَ تَعَاطَوْهَا. إِنَّ لَنَا مَذْبَحًا، لَا  
سُلْطَانَ لِلَّذِينَ يَخْدُمُونَ الْمَسْكِنَ أَنْ يَأْكُلُوا مِنْهُ.  
لِأَنَّ الْحَيَوَانَاتِ الَّتِي يُدْخَلُ بِدَمِهَا عَنِ الْخَطِيئَةِ  
إِلَى الْأَقْدَاسِ بِيَدِ رَئِيسِ الْكَهَنَةِ، تُحْرَقُ أَجْسَامُهَا  
خَارِجَ الْمَحَلَّةِ. فَلِذَلِكَ يَسُوعُ أَيْضًا تَأَلَّمَ خَارِجَ  
الْبَابِ لِيقْدِسَ الشَّعْبَ بِدَمِ نَفْسِهِ. فَلَنُخْرِجْ إِذْنُ إِلَيْهِ،  
إِلَى خَارِجِ الْمَحَلَّةِ، حَامِلِينَ عَارَهُ. لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَنَا  
هَهُنَا مَدِينَةٌ بَاقِيَّةٌ، بَلْ نَطْلُبُ الْآتِيَّةِ. فَلْنُقَرِّبْ بِهِ  
إِذْنُ ذَبِيحَةَ التَّسْبِيحِ كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَهِيَ ثَمَرُ شِفَاهِ  
مُعْتَرِفَةٍ لِاسْمِهِ. لَا تَنْسُوا الْإِحْسَانَ وَالْمُؤَاسَاةَ، فَإِنَّ  
اللَّهَ يَرْضَى مِثْلَ هَذِهِ الذَّبَائِحِ

# GOSPEL FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

The Reading from the Holy Gospel

according to Saint Luke (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ

لوقا البشِيرِ التِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ (17:12-19)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ دَاخِلٌ إِلَى قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَقْبَلَهُ عَشْرَةُ رِجَالٍ بُرْصٍ وَوَقَفُوا مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَرَفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَهُمْ قَائِلِينَ: يَا يَسُوعُ الْمُعَلِّمُ ارْحَمْنَا. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهُمْ قَالَ لَهُمْ امْضُوا وَأَرَوْا الْكَهَنَةَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ. وَفِيمَا هُمْ مُنْطَلِقُونَ طَهَّرُوا. وَإِنَّ وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمْ، لَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّهُ قَدْ بَرِيَ، رَجَعَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ. وَخَرَّ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْهِ شَاكِرًا لَهُ وَكَانَ سَامِرِيًّا، فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ، أَلَيْسَ الْعَشْرَةُ قَدْ طَهَّرُوا فَأَيْنَ التَّسْعَةُ؟ أَلَمْ يُوجَدْ مَنْ يَرْجِعْ لِيُثْنِيَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا هَذَا الْأَجَنْبِيُّ؟ وَقَالَ لَهُ، فَمِ وَامْضِ، إِيْمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَّصَكَ



### **Holy Bread Offered By:**

**Today** – Bechara and Natividad  
Saad and Family



**Jan 25** – Dr. George and Samar Alamir  
and Family

**Feb 1** – Fairouz Rayan and Family  
– Issa and Hanadi Bannourah and  
Family  
– Michael and Diana Moukheiber  
and Family

**Feb 8** – Nuha Lussi and Family

**Feb 15** – Reimoon and Jumana Imsaih  
and Family

**Feb 22** – **OPEN**

**Mar 1** – **OPEN**

**Mar 8** – **OPEN**

**Mar 15** – **OPEN**

**Mar 22** – **OPEN**

**Mar 29** – **OPEN**



### **Coffee Hour Sponsors:**

**Today** – George and Meysoon  
Musa and Family



**Jan 25** – Dr. George and Samar Alamir  
and Family

**Feb 1** – Fairouz Rayan and Family

**Feb 8** – **OPEN**

**Feb 15** – **OPEN**

**Feb 22** – **OPEN**



## **CONDOLENCES**

The clergy and parishioners of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Cicero offer their sincerest condolences to:

Ribhi and Norma Zayed and Wajeeh and Mine Faqa on the falling asleep of their sister, †RUWAIDA FAQA, last week in Nazareth, Palestine.

**Memory Eternal!**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy 80th Birthday to IBRAHIM ZAYED last week!

### **YAF COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS**

↳ Feb 1 – **Sali Esber**

↳ Feb 15 – **OPEN**



## **MEMORIALS**

**Feb 1** . 40-Day Memorial Service for †SALWA SHOMALI, offered by Issa and Hanadi Bannourah and family.  
. 5-year Memorial Service for †CAROL MOUKHEIBER, offered by Michael and Diane Moukheiber and family.

**Feb 8** 1-Year Memorial Service for †NADIA LUSSI, offered by Nuha Lussi and family.

**Feb 15** 40-Day Memorial Service for †AMER IMSAIH, offered by Reimoon and Jumana Imsaih and family.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today	• Pre-Communion Prayers	9:00 am
	• Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy	9:15 am
	• Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am
	• Sunday School Classes ( <i>see pg. 13</i> )	After Communion
	• God's Little Lights ( <i>see pg. 14</i> )	After Communion
	• The Order-Cicero Chapter Induction of 2026 Officers	After Liturgy
	• Coffee Hour	After Liturgy
	• Annual General Assembly Meeting ( <i>see pgs. 34-35</i> )	12:30 pm
Mon, Jan 19	Antiochian Women (AW) Officers' Meeting	6:30 pm
Tue, Jan 20	• Election of Parish Council Officers Zoom Meeting	6:00 pm
	• West Campus Ministry ( <i>see pg. 29</i> )	6:30 pm
	• Antiochian Men (A-Men) Officers' Meeting	9:00 pm
Fri, Jan 23	Marriage Ministry Couples' Dinner – A Night in Italy ( <i>see pg. 24</i> )	7:30 pm
Sat, Jan 24	• Great Vespers Service	5:00 pm
	• Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Movie Night ( <i>see pg. 18</i> )	After Vespers
Sun, Jan 25	• Pre-Communion Prayers	9:00 am
	• Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy	9:15 am
	• Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am
	• Sunday School Classes ( <i>see pg. 13</i> )	After Communion
	• God's Little Lights ( <i>see pg. 14</i> )	After Communion
	• Induction of 2026 Parish Council	After Liturgy
	• Coffee Hour	After Liturgy
Tue, Jan 27	West Campus Ministry ( <i>see pg. 29</i> )	6:30 pm
Fri, Jan 30	Deanery Meeting and Clergy Retreat ( <i>see pg. 22</i> )	3:00 pm
Sat, Jan 31	• Deanery Leadership Retreat ( <i>see pg. 22</i> )	9:00 am
	• Deanery Picnic Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
	• Deanery SOYO Retreat hosted by Saint Mary's Church, Palos Heights, IL ( <i>see pgs. 22-23</i> )	5:00 pm
Sun, Feb 1	• Pre-Communion Prayers	9:00 am
	• Orthros (Matins) followed by Great Doxology and Divine Liturgy	9:15 am
	• Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am
	• Sunday School Classes ( <i>see pg. 13</i> )	After Communion
	• God's Little Lights ( <i>see pg. 14</i> )	After Communion
	• Coffee Hour	After Liturgy
	• Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Coffee and Fellowship ( <i>see pg. 17</i> )	After Liturgy
	• Altar Leadership Meeting	After Liturgy
Mon, Feb 2	Antiochian Men (A-Men) Officers' Monthly Zoom Meeting	9:00 pm
Tue, Feb 3	West Campus Ministry ( <i>see pg. 29</i> )	6:30 pm
Wed, Feb 4	Sunday School Teachers' Zoom Training	8:00 pm
Sat, Feb 7	Great Vespers Service	5:00 pm
	Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Social Outing ( <i>see pg. 19</i> )	7:00 pm

## **“Bethany Houses” for Our Time**

*By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)*

I was compelled to travel earlier than planned, before the meeting of the Holy Antiochian Synod in October of last year (2025), to Lebanon in order to attend to several personal matters—medical and legal—and to bring them to a close. During that time, I was given the opportunity to stay for a period in a retreat house belonging to one of our monasteries there. From it, I would go out to attend to the matters that had brought me, and then return.

That period granted me something I deeply needed: inner calm, through intensified prayer, reading, and walking in nature. I have long emphasized the importance of spiritual retreats. Although my retreat was in a sense forced and mixed with necessary obligations, I nonetheless experienced its benefit, both spiritually and physically.

The Orthodox tradition is well acquainted with frequenting monasteries. Traditionally, spiritual retreats in the Orthodox world consist of spending a few days in a monastery, during which the believer follows the monastery’s daily cycle of prayers. In addition, the elder or abbess assigns a personal rule that includes spiritual reading, a prayer rule, and work.

Since monasteries are unable to receive all the faithful, many parishes in recent years have turned to organizing group spiritual retreats—whether in monasteries, parishes, or nearby suitable locations—where participants spend one or more days in an atmosphere of prayer, reading, spiritual conversation, and shared life. These retreats help people recover something of a return to themselves, granting inner peace and allowing them to taste the joy of Christian fellowship within the family of Christ.

The contemporary human being lives under mounting tension caused by the accelerating pace of daily life and its pressures. Long working hours, economic strain, exhausting commutes, consumerist lifestyles, and constant preoccupation with livelihood concerns—along with many other factors—have led to exhaustion, frayed nerves, loss of inner balance, mental confusion, and depression that has become one of the most widespread illnesses of our age. Medical statistics indicate that sedatives are among the most commonly sold medications.

All of this requires that the Church not limit herself to preaching and teaching alone, but that she accompany them with renewed pastoral ministry and care for the human person, both collectively and individually. This need is one of the reasons behind my call to revive the ministry of the diaconate in our Archdiocese. At the Archdiocese Convention in 2023, I also called for the revival of prayer groups in parishes and spoke briefly about retreat houses.

People today need the Church’s help in organizing short or extended spiritual retreats, taking into account small groups—no more than twenty participants—in quiet, natural settings close to the parish, both to reduce costs and to encourage those with limited means to participate. Participants spend the day in common, quiet prayer. The program should include times for silence, spiritual reading, shared Gospel reflection, discussion around spiritual texts or sayings, as well as silent walks in nature accompanied by the Jesus Prayer.

Such a retreat should not be spiritually burdensome, financially costly, nor merely a recreational activity. The modern person, worn down by nervous strain, needs a period of rest—a kind of spiritual, psychological, and even physical convalescence. Secular spiritual organizations are already offering such programs and workshops. This is all the more reason, then, for the Church to make this ministry one of her top priorities—if we truly desire, and we must desire, to seek the salvation of humanity, for whose sake God became incarnate. Is not salvation the very mission of the Church?

We must not content ourselves with offices for administrative and spiritual appointments alone. I say repeatedly to our priests: I do not want you to be managers of religious enterprises; I want you to be spiritual fathers and shepherds of souls. We must nourish the contemporary human person and help him deepen his life and personal relationship with God. In Christ alone does one find the meaning and purpose of life, and through Him discover the true joy for which the heart longs. A Church whose members do not taste the joy of Christ, purity of life, lived love, and mutual support remains nothing more than a religious association. Christ did not come to establish an association—even a religious one. He did not found a religion; He offered a way of life. The Church is His Body, and His Body is always alive. The Church is a living, vibrant organism, overflowing with life.

When I was Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Hauran, by God’s grace I was able to acquire a house in one of the most beautiful regions of Syria and transform it into a retreat house, which I named “Bethany House.” Did not Christ Himself go to Bethany, to His friend Lazarus and his sisters, to find rest with them? I intended it to be a place of spiritual, psychological, and restorative renewal for the sons and daughters of that archdiocese who were exhausted by the ongoing war. Very quickly, however, it became a destination sought by believers from various archdioceses. How I wish that some capable and generous faithful would take the initiative to establish retreat houses—“Bethany Houses”—for the people of our Archdiocese here in North America.

I dream that in the near future we will have retreat houses in many areas of the Archdiocese, places our faithful can visit to spend days of joy in the presence of God and one another. In this way, we encourage one another to choose the “good portion” that will not be taken away from us. Encourage one another to provide the Archdiocese with retreat houses—for yourselves and for your children after you.

## «بيوت عنيا» المعاصرة

المتروبوليت سابا (اسبر)

اضطرت إلى السفر مبكراً، قبل انعقاد المجمع الأنطاكي المقدس في تشرين الأول من العام الماضي (2025)، إلى لبنان لمتابعة بعض الأمور الشخصية، على الصعيدين الصحي والقانوني وإنهائها. وهكذا تسنّت لي الفرصة لأن أقضي فترة في منسك يتبع لأحد أديرتنا هناك. كنت أنطلق منه لمتابعة ما أتيت من أجله وأعود إليه تالياً. منحنتي تلك الفترة بعضاً مما كنت أحتاجه من هدوء داخلي بسبب تكثيف الصلاة والمطالعة والسير في الطبيعة.

كنت ولا أزال أشدد على أهمية الخلوات الروحية. وعلى الرغم من أن خلوتي كانت قسرية ومشوبة بمتابعة ما اضطرت إلى المجيء من أجله، إلا أنني لمست فائدتها حتى على صعيد نشاطي الروحي والجسدي.

يعرف التراث الأرثوذكسي التردد على الأديرة. والخلوات الروحية تقليدياً، كما تُمارس في العالم الأرثوذكسي، هي قضاء بضعة أيام في الدير. يتبع المؤمن خلالها برنامج الدير من حيث دورة الصلوات اليومية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك يعطيه الشيخ (رئيس) أو الشیخة (رئيسةالدير) برنامجاً شخصياً يتضمن قراءة روحية وقانون صلاة شخصية وعمل.

ولأن الأديرة غير قادرة على استقبال جميع المؤمنين، لجأت كثرة من الرعايا في السنوات الأخيرة إلى تنظيم خلوات روحية جماعية، في الأديرة أو الرعايا أو منطقة قريبة مناسبة، حيث يقضي المشاركون نهاراً أو أكثر في جو من الصلاة والقراءة والأحاديث الروحية واختبار الحياة المشتركة. تساعد هذه الخلوات في استعادة شيئاً من العودة إلى الذات، مما يمنحهم هدوءاً داخلياً، ويذيقهم فرح الشركة المسيحية في عائلة المسيح.

يعيش الإنسان المعاصر توتراً تزداد حدته من جراء تسارع إيقاع الحياة اليومية وضغوطها. إلى ذلك العمل الطويل والضغط الاقتصادي والمواصلات المرهقة ونمط الحياة الاستهلاكي والانشغال بهوموم معاشية متكاثرة، بالإضافة إلى عوامل أخرى كثيرة، أدى إلى إرهاق الإنسان المعاصر وتلف أعصابه وخروجه من ذاته وتشويش ذهنه وإصابته بالكآبة، التي غدت أكثر أمراض العصر انتشاراً. تفيد الإحصاءات الطبية أن الأدوية المهدئة هي الأكثر مبيعاً!!

هذا كله يحتم على الكنيسة ألا تكتفي بالوعظ والتعليم، وأن ترفقهما بتنشيط الخدمة الرعوية والاهتمام بالإنسان على الصعيد العام والشخصي في آن. تُعد هذه الحاجة أحد أسباب دعوتي إلى إحياء خدمة الشموسية في الأبرشية. وكنت قد دعوت في مؤتمر الأبرشية في العام 2023 إلى إحياء جماعات صلاة في الرعايا، وذكرت شيئاً عن بيوت الخلوات الروحية

يحتاج إنسان اليوم إلى مساعدة الكنيسة في تنظيم خلوات روحية قصيرة أو طويلة تأخذ بعين الاعتبار اشتراك عدد لا يتجاوز العشرين، في منطقة طبيعية هادئة وقريبة من الرعية، تخفيفاً للنفقات وتشجيعاً لذوي الدخل المحدود على الاشتراك فيها. يقضي المشاركون اليوم في صلاة هادئة يشترك الجميع فيها، وينظم البرنامج بحيث يعطي المشاركون أوقاتاً للصمت والقراءة الروحية، وتأمّل إنجيلي مشترك وحوار حول نصوص أو أقوال روحية بالإضافة إلى مسير في الطبيعة صامت برفقه صلاة يسوع.

لا تكون هذه الخلوة ضاغطة روحياً، ولا مكلفة مادياً، ولا نشاطاً مجرد ترفيهي. فإنسان العصر المرهق عصبياً بحاجة إلى قضاء فترة نقاهة أو استجمام روحي عصبي نفسي وحتى جسدي. باتت هيئات روحانية لا دينية تنظم هكذا حلقات أو دورات. لذلك فالأولى بالكنيسة أن تجعل هذه الخدمة من أولى أولوياتها، إن شئنا، ويجب أن نشاء، أن نسعى إلى خلاص البشر الذي تجسد الله من أجلهم. أليس الخلاص رسالة الكنيسة أساساً؟

يجب ألا نكتفي بمكاتب للمراجعات الروحية والإدارية. أقول لكهنتنا دوماً لا أريدكم رجال أعمال دينية، نريد آباءً روحيين، ورعاة نفوس. علينا تغذية الإنسان المعاصر ومساعدته على تعميق حياته وعلاقته الشخصية بالله. بالمسيح فقط يجد معنى حياته وغايتها، وبه يكتشف الفرحة الحقيقي الذي يصبو إليه. الكنيسة التي لا يذوق أعضاؤها فرح المسيح ونقاء السيرة واختبار المحبة والتعاقد تبقى جمعية دينية لا غير، والمسيح لم يأت إلى أرضنا ليؤسس جمعية ولو دينية. هو لم يؤسس ديناً، بل طريقة حياة. الكنيسة جسده، وجسده حي على الدوام. الكنيسة كيان حي وحيوي يمور بالحياة

عندما كنت مطراناً لأبرشية حوران، استطعت بنعمة الله أن أقنتني بيتاً في أحد أجمل مناطق سوريا، وحولته إلى بيت للخلوة، وسميته «بيت عنيا». ألم يكن المسيح يذهب إلى بيت عنيا، إلى صديقه لعازر وأختيه ليرتاح عندهم؟ أردته مكان استجمام روحي عصبي ترفيهي لأبناء الأبرشية المتعبين من جراء الحرب الدائرة في البلد. لكنه سرعان ما صار مطلباً لكل المؤمنين من مختلف الأبرشيات. كم أتمنى لو يبادر بعض المؤمنين المقتردين إلى إحياء بيوت خلوة (بيوت عنيا) لأبناء أبرشيتنا هنا في أميركا الشمالية.

أحلم بأن يكون لنا في المستقبل القريب بيوت خلوة في أماكن كثيرة من الأبرشية، يعودها مؤمنونا ليقضوا أيام فرح بصحبة الله وبعضهم. بذلك نشجع بعضنا على اختيار النصيب الصالح الذي لا يُنزع مئاً. شجعوا بعضكم على اقتناء الأبرشية بيوت خلوة لكم ولأولادكم من بعدكم





# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Curriculum Update

### .....THE BEATITUDES.....

Matthew 5:3-12

*Blessed* are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed* are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

*Blessed* are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

*Blessed* are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

*Blessed* are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

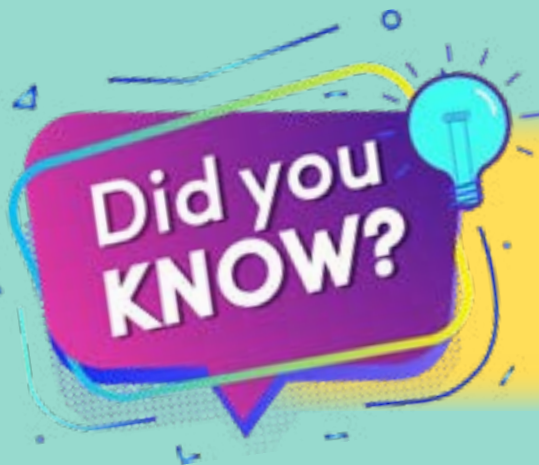
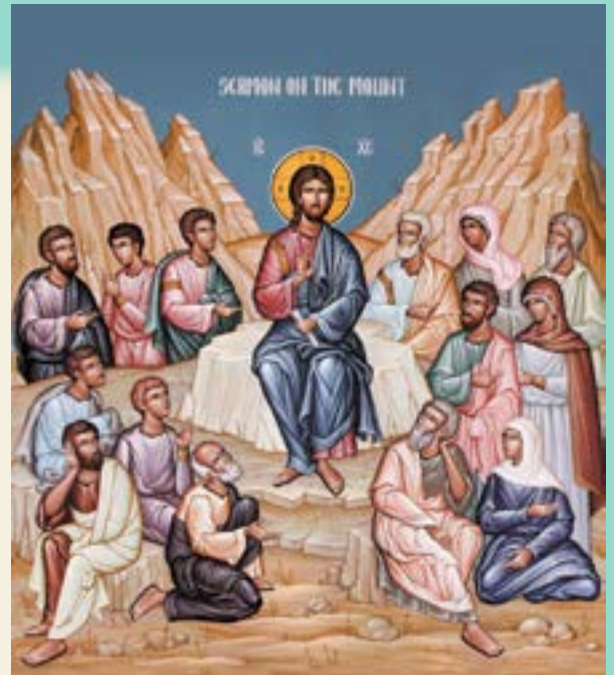
*Blessed* are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

*Blessed* are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

*Blessed* are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed* are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

*Rejoice* and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

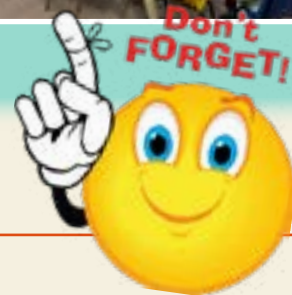


During the Annual General Assembly Meeting, Sunday School hosts a pizza party for the students ages 4-12. Usually, this includes a movie as well, and this allows the parents to participate in the Annual General Assembly Meeting.

# CREATING MEMORIES



## UPCOMING EVENTS...



Sundays after Communion	Sunday School Classes
Sundays 12:30pm – 1:00 pm	CAF Projects Workdays
WED   JAN 21	AV CAMP REGISTRATION @ 7:00 PM
Sun   Mar 1	Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession
Sun   Mar 8	CAF Projects Due
Sat   Mar 14	Confession Retreat
Sun   Mar 15	Adoration of Cross Procession
Sat   Mar 28	Sacrament of Confession (grades 3-12)
Sun   Apr 5	Palm Sunday – NO CLASSES
Sun   Apr 12	Great and Holy Pascha (Easter) – NO CLASSES
Sun   May 3	Godparents' Sunday
Sun   May 31	Recognition Sunday – LAST DAY OF CLASSES



# God's



# Little Lights

a Pastoral Ministry for 3- and 4-year-olds of  
Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church | Cicero, IL

Immediately after Communion, the children's ministry, **"GOD'S LITTLE LIGHTS"**, will take place in the cry room *(2nd floor by elevator)* every Sunday.

This ministry serves all **3-YEAR-OLDS** and **4-YEAR-OLDS** *(born after September 1, 2021)*. At least one parent, father or mother, must attend along with their children. Younger siblings are welcome with the parents.





art

writing

poetry

photography



## CREATIVE FESTIVALS 2026

You shall be to Me a royal  
priesthood and a holy nation.

- Exodus 19:6

**ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

> > > 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE AND OLDER < < <

are invited to participate!

Registration

Deadline → **SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026**

CAF Projects

Due → **SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026**

Questions?

NADINE YOUEL, CAF Coordinator → [SundaySchool@StGeorgeChi.org](mailto:SundaySchool@StGeorgeChi.org)

# YAF

2025



REWIND

## NUMBER OF YAF MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION AT SAINT GEORGE CHURCH



## The Young Adult Fellowship at the Heart of Saint George Church

The Young Adult Fellowship is more than a social group, it is an essential part of the life, growth, and stability of our Parish. Rooted in their commitment to Christ, the young adults actively serve both the Church and the wider community.

With over fifty young adults regularly attending Sunday services, their leadership speaks for itself. Whether it is serving in the altar, chanting and singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, reading the dismissal prayers, or organizing their beloved coffee hour.

The young adults at Saint George Church have proven to be a vital force that strengthens our Parish for future generations to come.

## In 2025, the Young Adult Fellowship...

Welcomed

**40**

new members to YAF

Made

**22**

trips to drop off donated items from the Charity Center (Located in the Church Hall next to the Jerusalem Bookstore)

Consumed over

**600**

cups of coffee

Raised and donated

**\$300**

to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for the Holy Land and Gaza

Raised and donated

**\$578**

for school supplies for homeless children in Cicero

Raised and donated

**\$924**

from the Lenten coin boxes for the Food For Hungry People charity

Assembled and donated

**25**

"Blessing Bags" for people in need

Received

**\$1,568**

in donations for the

**26**

college care packages we assembled and mailed out to YAF students



SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, CICERO, IL

Young Adult Fellowship

## SAVE-THE-DATE

**Sat, January 24th**      **Movie Night: *Paul, Apostle of Christ***

**Sun, February 1st**      **YAF Coffee Hour**

**Sat, February 7th**      **Social Outing at Activate Games in Oakbrook**

**Sun, February 15th**      **YAF Coffee Hour**

**Sat, February 21st**      **Pre-Lenten Spiritual Retreat**

**Sun, March 1st**      **YAF Coffee Hour**

INVITING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES,  
AND COLLEGE STUDENTS (AGES 18+)



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

## Young Adult Fellowship (YAF)



# MOVIE NIGHT

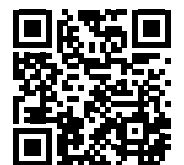
## PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST

Sat | 01.24.2026

5PM Great Vespers Service

\$5/person

**RSVP HERE**



SCAN ME

Inviting all Young Professionals, Young Married  
Couples, and College Students (ages 18+)



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

*Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Social*  
*at*

# Activate Games

*at*  
**7pm**



*\$30/ticket to Activate Games*  
*meet for food afterwards (not included)*

  
**1600 16th St, Unit 6**  
**Oak Brook, IL 60523**

*Sat/Feb 7*

*RSVP by Wed*  
*02.04.2026*



SCAN ME

*Inviting all Young Professionals, Young  
Married Couples, and College Students (18+)*





Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



# Teen SOYO

## Save the Date...

### TEEN SOYO ACTIVITIES

---

SUN, JAN 18

Saint George Church Annual General Assembly  
Meeting and Elections  
*All Teens invited to participate*

SAT, JAN 31

Deanery SOYO Retreat *hosted by Saint Mary's  
Antiochian Orthodox Church, Palos Heights, IL*

SAT, FEB 21

Teen SOYO Social Event @ Dave & Buster's

SUN, FEB 22

Teen SOYO – SOYO Hour

SUN, MAR 15

Teen SOYO – SOYO Hour

SAT, MAR 21

Teen SOYO Lenten Treat to Saint John  
Chrysostomos Monastery

FRI, APR 10

All-Day Vigil for Great and Holy Friday

SUN, APR 19

Teen SOYO – SOYO Hour

# ALL TEENS (13-18) WELCOME!





Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

# TEEN SOYO

## Social Outing

Sat | Feb 21  
5-8 PM



9870 Berwyn Ave  
Rosemont, IL 60018

**\$30/  
person  
includes**

Unlimited  
Video  
Games

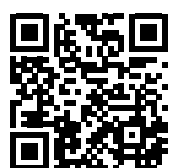
Power  
Card (\$20  
value)

Buffet  
Dinner



Inviting ALL TEENS  
(ages 13-18)

**RSVP** BY  
THU | FEB 19



SCAN ME

# Chicago Deanery

## Ministries Retreat with

# *Fr. Chad Hatfield*



**January 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

*The Antiochian Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Deanery are excited to have Fr. Chad Hatfield, former dean of St. Vladimir Seminary. He will be speaking to the ministries of our churches. See the schedule below. Please click or scan the QR code to register.*

## **Schedule**

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

3:00pm - Clergy Retreat at St. George, Cicero

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

9am-3pm - Parish Council & Ministry Leaders Retreat  
for all parishes at St. George, Cicero

5pm-9pm - SOYO Retreat for all teens at  
St. Mary, Palos Heights

[Click here](#)  
or scan the  
QR code to  
register.



*All Saints, Chicago | St. George, Cicero  
St. George, Spring Valley | St. Mary, Palos Heights  
Holy Transfiguration, Warrenville  
St. Katherine Mission, Niles*

# Chicago Deanery SOYO RETREAT *Fr. Chad Hatfield*



## *“Loyalty to Christ”*

**January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**



**5:00pm - 9:30pm**



**St. Mary Church**

**6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL**



*All teens of the Antiochian Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Deanery are invited to a SOYO Retreat with Fr. Chad Hatfield, former dean of St. Vladimir Seminary. Please click or scan the QR code to register.*

### **Schedule**

<b>5:00 PM</b>	Great Vespers at St. Mary	<b>8:15 PM</b>	Games/Activities
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Dinner	<b>9:00 PM</b>	Compline
<b>6:45 PM</b>	Ice breakers	<b>9:30 PM</b>	Pick-up
<b>7:15 PM</b>	Session		

*[Click here](#)  
or scan the  
QR code to  
register.*



*All Saints, Chicago | St. George, Cicero  
St. George, Spring Valley | St. Mary, Palos Heights  
Holy Transfiguration, Warrenville  
St. Katherine Mission, Niles*





Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

Couples' Dinner

# *A Night in Italy*

A Marriage Ministry Event

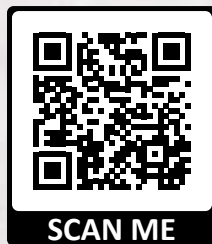
**Fri, Jan 23 – 7:30<sup>PM</sup>**

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY OAK BROOK | 240 OAKBROOK CTR, OAK BROOK, IL 60523

## **MENU**

Dinner ~ Fellowship ~ Spiritual Talk ~ Fun

**\$110/COUPLE**



SCAN ME

**RSVP**

by Sun, Jan 18

**INVITING ALL**

Married ~ Engaged ~ Courting Couples



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero,



# Couples' Lenten Spiritual Retreat

*A Marriage Ministry Event*

**SAT, FEB 28 – 4:30PM**

Saint George Church Hall

Vespers

Dinner

Spiritual Talk

Group Activities

Panel Discussion

Fellowship

# SAVE THE DATE

**INVITING ALL**

Married ~ Engaged ~ Courting Couples



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

**Antiochian Men (A-Men)**

***PRESENTS...***



*A Night of Love*      *سهرة حب*  
*Una Noche de Amor*

**CELEBRATING  
FAMILY AND LOVE**

**Feb 14**

**5:00 pm**

**Saturday**



***SAVE the DATE...***

**All Ages Invited! Registration Coming Soon!**



# VIERNES 13 DE FEBRERO - 6.30 PM

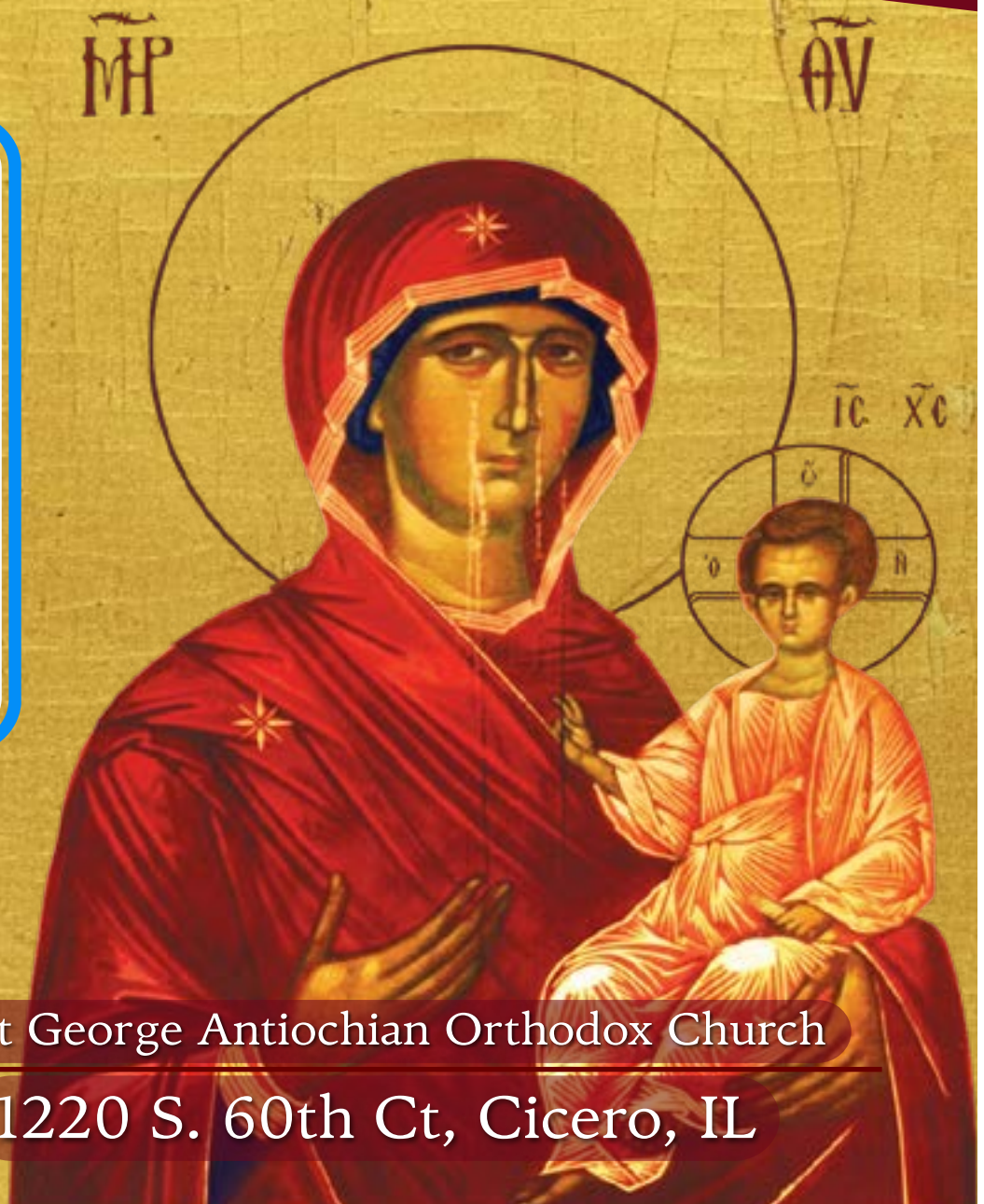
## Súplicas a la Madre de Dios

Oraciones a la  
Virgen María  
en tiempos de  
necesidad



### ESTUDIO BÍBLICO

Tras la  
finalización  
de las  
Súplicas



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church

1220 S. 60th Ct, Cicero, IL

# What Time Do I Arrive to Church on Sunday?

## What Am I Missing?

What time do I arrive?	What part did I miss?	I have deprived myself of the opportunity to...
10:15	Orthros (Matins)	Attend an entire service (beginning at 9:15 AM). Hear the hymns of the week and prepare for the Liturgy.
10:25	Great Doxology	Begin the week properly by giving Glory to God and concluding the final preparation for the Divine Liturgy.
10:30	Blessed is the Kingdom	Proclaim that God's Kingdom is blessed and to respond, "Amen."
10:45	Litanies and Prayers	Pray for peace, the Church, the sick. Participate in the Entrance of the Holy Gospel.
10:55	Epistle, Gospel, Sermon	Hear the Word of God, and think of how it applies to my daily life.
11:10	Cherubic Hymn	Participate in the procession of the Holy Gifts among the people.
11:20	The Creed and Offering	Proclaim what "I believe" and acknowledge the One Who is being offered.
11:30	The Lord's Prayer	Prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.
11:40	The Eucharist	Receive the Body and Blood of Christ from His table from which we hear His Gospel in the reading earlier in the service.
11:45	Thanksgiving Prayers	Give praise and thanks to God for the Gift we have received from Him.
11:50	The Dismissal	Commemorate Christ's saving work, and the prayers and intercession of all the saints.



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL

# West Campus Ministry



2026

Winter Session

Location: **Church of the Holy Nativity**  
275 S RICHMOND AVE, CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

**TUESDAYS**

Jan 20 — Jan 27 — Feb 3  
"Humility" "Patience" "Trust"

*How to understand humility, patience, and trust from the Bible.*

## PROGRAM

**6:30PM – 7:00PM**



WELCOME  
(COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS SERVED)

**7:00PM – 8:00PM**



ADULT LESSON  
KIDS' CLUB (AGES 3-8)  
JOY CLUB (AGES 9-12)  
LESSON AND ACTIVITIES/GAMES  
TEEN SOYO (AGES 13-18)  
LESSON AND ACTIVITIES/GAMES

**8:00PM – 8:20PM**



LITTLE COMPLINE SERVICE

**8:20PM – 9:00PM**



SOCIAL TIME  
(COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS SERVED)

## LESSONS

### HUMILITY

"GOD TEACHES US HUMILITY BY REMINDING US TO SERVE AND NOT TO BE SERVED." (MARK 18:45)

### PATIENCE

"WE MUST TRUST IN GOD AND HIS TIMING AND REMAIN FAITHFUL DURING CHALLENGES." (EXODUS 34:6)

### TRUST

"TRUST MEANS RELYING ON GOD AND HIS WORD COMPLETELY FOR OUR LIVES." (MATTHEW 6:25-34)

← **West  
Campus**



# Winter SCHEDULE



## BY AGE GROUP

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*Wed*  
14 JAN

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### HUMILITY

6:30 PM

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN & YAF

“GOD TEACHES US HUMILITY BY REMINDING US TO SERVE AND NOT TO BE SERVED.” (MARK 10:45)

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*Wed*  
21 JAN

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### GENEROSITY

6:30 PM

A-MEN & TEEN SOYO

“IS GOD GENEROUS? GENEROSITY SHOWS US HOW TO SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.” (PROVERBS 19:17)

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*Wed*  
28 JAN

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### PATIENCE

6:30 PM

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN & YAF

“WE MUST TRUST IN GOD AND HIS TIMING AND REMAIN FAITHFUL DURING CHALLENGES.” (EXODUS 34:6)

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*Wed*  
04 FEB

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### CHASTITY

6:30 PM

A-MEN & TEEN SOYO

“GOD TEACHES US TO BE PURE AND TO HONOR OURSELVES, OTHERS, AND HIM IN OUR CHOICES.” (PSALM 50:10)

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*Wed*  
11 FEB

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### CHARITY

6:30 PM

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN & YAF

“TRUE CHARITY REFLECTS THE HEART OF GOD, WHO IS LOVE, TURNING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION.” (JOHN 3:16)

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*Wed*  
18 FEB

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### TRUST

6:30 PM

A-MEN & TEEN SOYO

“TRUST MEANS RELYING ON GOD AND HIS WORD COMPLETELY FOR OUR LIVES. (MATTHEW 6:25-34)

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SAINT KATHERINE THE GREAT  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX  
MISSION



ALL AGES

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*Thurs*  
15 JAN

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**BAPTISM  
& CHRISMATION**

6:30 PM

“BAPTISM AND CHRISMATION ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.” (MATTHEW 28:16-20)

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*Thurs*  
22 JAN

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**EUCCHARIST  
& HOLY COMMUNION**

6:30 PM

“HOLY COMMUNION UNITES US WITH CHRIST AND THE WHOLE CHURCH THROUGH HIS BODY AND BLOOD, FOLLOWING HIS COMMANDMENTS AND TRUE TEACHINGS.” (MATTHEW 26:20-29)

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*Thurs*  
29 JAN

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**HOLY PENANCE  
& CONFESSION**

6:30 PM

“THROUGH HOLY PENANCE, WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S MERCY AND LEARN TO LIVE WITH A CLEAN HEART.” (MATTHEW 9:13)

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*Thurs*  
05 FEB

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**HOLY UNCTION**

6:30 PM

“HOLY UNCTION / OIL BRINGS GOD’S HEALING TO THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN BODY AND SOUL.” (JAMES 5:14-15)

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*Thurs*  
12 FEB

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**MARRIAGE**

6:30 PM

“HOLY MATRIMONY JOINS A MAN AND WOMAN IN GOD’S LOVE AND BLESSES THEIR FAMILY LIFE TO DO HIS WILL.” (EPHESIANS 5:20-33)

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*Thurs*  
19 FEB

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**HOLY ORDERS  
& ORDINATION**

6:30 PM

“IS GOD CALLING? HOLY ORDERS SETS MEN APART TO SERVE GOD AND HIS CHURCH.” (ACTS 6:1-7)

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Antiochian  
Village

Pennsylvania



Sessions SELL OUT in 15 MINUTES!

Register AT 7:00PM CST  
ON Wednesday, FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>  
to secure your spot at the  
**Antiochian Village Summer  
Camp in Pennsylvania!**

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME



Registration  
Opens  
Wed | Jan 21



Camp St. George  
I-OWA

June 28-July 4, 2026

Summer  
Camp



Registration Opens  
SOON!



SCAN ME



# NO CAMPER LEFT BEHIND!



In 2025,  
39 CAMPERS  
from Saint George Church  
attended Camp!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

available from

The Order of Saint Ignatius  
Cicero Chapter and National!

No Camper Left Behind

ALL Campers in need of financial  
assistance will be able to attend!



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

...coming in Spring 2026





# Nominating Committee



## R•E•P•O•R•T



The following is the report of the Nominating Committee of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church regarding the upcoming General Assembly and Parish Council Elections on January 18, 2026. The members of the Church listed below are qualified, nominated, and have accepted the nomination to be elected or appointed to the Parish Council and all have received the blessing of Fr. Fouad Saba as well:

- Elias Akkari
- Michael Moukheiber
- Joseph Rihani
- Sandra Barbari
- Karen Nawas
- Alexandra Zanayed
- Jeries Kahoush
- Amir Rihani







# Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church كنيسة القديس جارجيوس الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest  
Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba, Pastor

December 14, 2025

Dear Members of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church,

Christ in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

A blessed Nativity Season to you and your families! This is to inform you that the 2026 Annual General Assembly Meeting for the voting membership of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026, following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda is on the reverse side of this letter.

To be recognized as a voting member of Saint George Church, a parishioner must be at least eighteen years of age and have fulfilled both the necessary spiritual obligations (as determined by the Pastor) and the financial obligations (as determined by the Financial Secretary), which require a minimum contribution of \$600 per married couple or \$300 per individual received between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. Each married couple attending the meeting will be given two ballots — one for each spouse in attendance — while individual members, over the age of 18, who have met the requirements, will each receive one ballot from the Financial Secretary at the meeting. Only those present at the meeting may vote; no proxy votes are permitted. If you have not already met your financial obligation, please do so before December 31, 2025. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please see the Pastor. Should you have any further questions regarding these requirements, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

The goal of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church is to have all eligible members vote.

At this General Assembly, elections will be held for four (4) seats for a three-year term on the Parish Council. A Nominating Committee has been appointed to compile a list of qualified candidates. The members of the committee are Fr. Fouad Saba, Dn. George Nassief, Mr. Victor Imreibe, and Mr. Michael Moukheiber. If you or someone you know is interested in running for the Parish Council and is willing to make the commitment required to fulfill this important obligation, please contact the Nominating Committee.

It is important to note that pursuant to the Saint George Church Constitution, no nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Annual General Assembly Meeting. All candidates' names must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in order for the candidate's name to be included on the Ballot. There can be no exception to this rule.

During this General Assembly Meeting, all members will also receive a full 2025 Financial Report, the proposed 2026 Annual Budget, and reports from the various organizations and hear about all current plans for the coming year. 2025 was an extremely active year in the life of Saint George Church and your attendance will add greatly to the discussion.

The Church is our spiritual home. Your involvement in the affairs of your Church is very important. May God bless you all as we prepare for the birth of the Savior!

Yours in Christ,

*V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba*

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba  
Pastor

*Elias Akkari*

Elias Akkari  
Chairman, Parish Council

*"And they were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)*



*"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*  
— Joshua 4:15

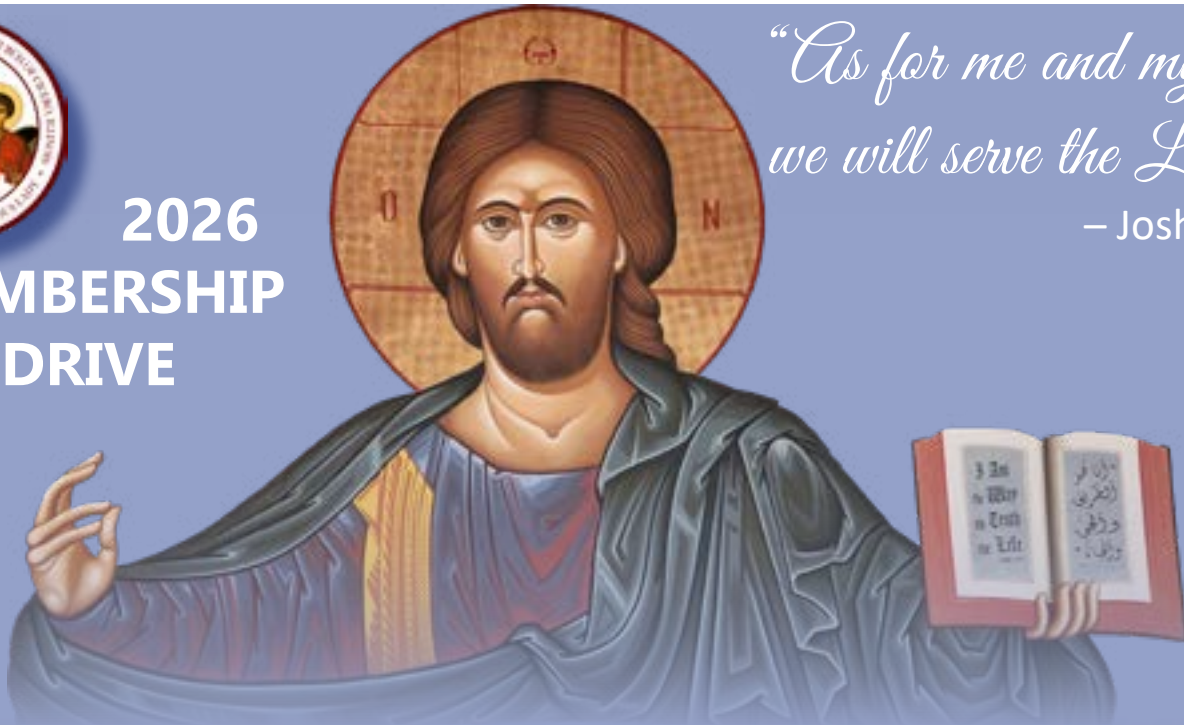




## 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

*“As for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord.”*

— Joshua 4:15



2024

2025

2026 Goals



# of Baptisms

12

19

Everyone



# of Catechumens  
Converted

14

11

As many souls as possible



# of Sunday School  
Students

168

182

All Sunday School Aged  
Students



# Registered Committed  
Households

194

256

All who call Saint George  
Church their home



\$ of Committed Giving

304,680

\$368,807

\$375,000



# of Automatic Giving  
Program

143

195

Everyone

# SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1220 S 60th Court • Cicero, Illinois 60804 • 708.656.2927 • [www.StGeorgeChi.org](http://www.StGeorgeChi.org) • [Office@StGeorgeChi.org](mailto:Office@StGeorgeChi.org)





SAINT GEORGE GOLF CLASSIC

# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual GOLF CLASSIC

Golfing for a purpose

Save the Date!

SATURDAY,  
JUNE 13, 2026



Registration and Sponsorships  
COMING SOON!



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Cicero, IL

*63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary*  
LEGACY BALL



**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

**DETAILS TO FOLLOW...**





## SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Traditionally, at the feast of the Lord's Epiphany (Baptism) on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Great Blessing of the waters takes place and then is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to the homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way.

As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.

## HOME BLESSINGS

*Please contact the Church Office at (708) 656-2927 or [Office@StGeorgeChi.org](mailto:Office@StGeorgeChi.org) to schedule your Home Blessing:*

The following should be prepared for the Home Blessing:

- All members of family must be present
- Bible
- Icon
- Lit Candle
- Burning Incense (Optional)
- Small Table (or dining room table)



The visit by Father Saba or Father Gabriel should be approximately **45 minutes**. Several visits will be scheduled on a given day in order to reach and bless all families and homes this season.

Once the Home Blessing Season is mostly over, Father Saba and Father Gabriel will continue regular Pastoral Visits, during which Father Saba or Father Gabriel will spend ample time with each family.



SCAN ME