Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church cicero, illinois

Legacy Journal

celebrating the Diamond Jubilee - 60th Anniversary of Saint George Church
with HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA
and all Antiochian Bishops in North America



Legacy Ball

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Drury Lane, Oakbrook terrace, Illinois

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE 'SAINT GEORGE FUTURE FUND'



Congratulations to the Saint George Church Family!

60 YEARS!

60 Years of Faith

60 Years of Prayer

60 Years of Service

60 YEARS OF LOVE

60 Years of Family

60 YEARS OF WORSHIP

60 Years of Community

60 Years of Learning

Here's to 61 Years to Eternity!



Welcome Sayidna!



IT IS AN HONOR TO WELCOME
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA
TO CHICAGO TO CELEBRATE THE

DIAMOND JUBILEE - 60TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH!



Legacy Ball Program

5:30 PM HORS D'OEUVRES, SILENT AUCTION, AND

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

6:45 PM SEATING BEGINS

INVOCATION THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN SABA

NATIONAL ANTHEM MRS. OLGA KARAM

WELCOME MR. BRYAN ZAROU

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

REMARKS MR. RAMMY I. ZANAYED

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

REMARKS MRS. KAREN NAWAS

DIAMOND JUBILEE LEGACY BALL CHAIRLADY

Presentation State of Illinois Proclamation

Dinner

ARUGULA AND PEAR SALAD WITH RIESLING VINAIGRETTE
GRILLED FILET MIGNON WITH HERBED BUTTER
BUTTER WHIPPED POTATOES AND GREEN BEANS AND CARROTS
CHEESECAKE WITH RASPBERRY COULIS
COFFEE AND TEA SERVICE

Presentation Father Athanasios Emmert Scholarship Award

Presentation Pastor's Certificate of Distinguished Service

Presentation Legacy Medal

co Legacy Video Presentation co

Address Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba

KEYNOTE ADDRESS THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN SABA

BENEDICTION THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN SABA

Entertainment

JAZZ FACTION, COCKTAIL AND DINNER MUSIC
REMON MAMARI ACCOMPANIED BY CHADI KEYS AND ENSEMBLE, ARABIC MUSIC



'Saint George Future Planning'

In November 2019, the "Saint George Future Fund" was established by the Parish Council to secure funds for potential future land/building purchases or new construction to bring the church closer to the people in order to properly serve and continue to grow our Orthodox Christian community.

IN 2020, THE PARISH COUNCIL FORMED THE VISION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, DESIGNED TO STUDY THE FUTURE EXPANSION OR RELOCATION OF SAINT GEORGE CHURCH.

Since that time, the committee has held several strategy meetings which discussed both short-term and long-term goals to build upon the labor of the last 60 years.

THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO MEET AND DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES WHICH WILL HELP GUIDE THE CHURCH TOWARDS THE BEST PATH FORWARD FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP THIS VISION, THE COMMITTEE IS DILIGENTLY WORKING TO SECURE TEMPORARY RENTAL FACILITIES IN BOTH THE NORTH AND WEST SUBURBS TO BRING THE CHURCH CLOSER TO THE FAITHFUL.

The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee year of Saint George is yet another step into the next chapter of Saint George Church.



2023 (F

SAINT GEORGE LEGACY MEDAL

DEPARTED FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS

tSalma Barhoumeh

METROPOLITAN ANTONY tNina Ghanayem BASHIR

METROPOLITAN PHILIP tNajah Haddad

SALIBA tGeorge Homsy

tARCHBISHOP SAMUFI tSAMI AND TIZABII IMSIH

DAVID **†KHALIL KARDOUS**

tBandalı Karı **TARCHBISHOP MICHAEL** SHAHEEN **†FOUAD KARI**

tBISHOP ANTOUN **†SHAMMASEH JANE NASSIEF**

KHOURI tGregory Randolph †ECONOMOS ANTONY TYOUSEE AND TWARDEN

Gabriel RIHANI

LIVING BENEFACTORS

ARCHPRIEST MALEK RIHANI

Nина **А**уоив

Yasmin Haddad

JOANNA KHOURY

Nadia Zanayed

PASTOR'S CERTIFICATE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ARCHDEACON SAED RIHANI

ADEL ALFAKHORI

KHAMIS IMSAIH

MICHAEL MOUKHEIBER

MICHAEL MUFARREH

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MANSOUR RAYAN

SAMAR RIHANI

RUDAINA SWAIS

RAFD SWEISS

FATHER ATHANASIOS EMMERT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

AWARDED TO ONE SAINT GEORGE CICERO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FROM THE CLASS OF 2023



2022 **Honorees**

SAINT GEORGE LEGACY MEDAL

LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

DEPARTED FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS

DENERACIONS LIVING DI

†Archimandrite Athanasios †George Khoury
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Rosalie Hoffman

SUBDEACON MUNIR KHOURY

Dr. Joseph W. Tamari

PASTOR'S CERTIFICATE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Darlene Haddad Subdeacon Mazen Khalifeh Dr. Thomas and Anna Kurian Reem Sweiss

SUBDERCON WAZEN KITALIFET

FATHER ATHANASIOS EMMERT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

AWARDED TO ONE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FROM THE CLASS OF 2022

MICHAEL NAWAS



Diamond Jubilee Legacy Ball Committee Thank you!

TO THE

SAINT GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE LEGACY BALL COMMITTEE FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND SUPPORT!

Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba, *Pastor*Very Reverend Father Gabriel Coronel, *Assistant Priest*Deacon George nassief

RAMMY ZANAYED, PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN EDDY SHAHEEN, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

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Diamond Jubilee Weekend Schedule

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

ARRIVAL OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

ARRIVAL OF BISHOPS AND DIGNITARIES

11:00 a.m. Midday Prayers and Veneration of Miraculous Weeping Icon and Brief Tour of Saint George Church

12:30 p.m. Lunch with Area Clergy (Inter-Orthodox, Inter-Christian of Chicagoland)

2:00 p.m. Antiochian Deanery Meeting

4:00 p.m. Typika Service in Chapel

6:30 p.m. DINNER WITH LOCAL TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

12:00 p.m. Lunch with Officers of Cicero Sunday School, Antiochian Women, Antiochian Men, The Order-Cicero Chapter, and other Church Leaders (by invitation)

7:00 p.m. Dinner with Officers and Members of Cicero Young Adult Fellowship (by reservation)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

9:00 a.m. BISHOPS' MEETING

9:00 a.m. Meeting of the North American Governing Council of The Order of Saint Ignatius

TBD Lunch

1:00 p.m. Antiochian VIII age Council Meeting

3:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Introduction and Information Meeting

TBD DINNER

6:30 P.M. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

8:30 a.m. Board of Trustees Breakfast sponsored by Local Board of Trustees

10:00 A.M. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (CONTINUED)

5:30 p.m. Diamond Jubilee Legacy Ball (Black-Tie Event by reservation)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

9:00 a.m. HIERARCHICAL DIVINE SERVICES

TO FOLLOW BLESSING OF MEMORIAL GARDEN

CLERGY PHOTO

ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS INDUCTION

YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

TO FOLLOW RECEPTION/COFFEE HOUR

TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

1:30 p.m. 'Stewards Luncheon' for Metropolitan SABA, Bishops, and Board of Trustees

HOSTED BY THE FUTURE STEWARDS - CICERO TEEN SOYO (BY RESERVATION)

6:30 p.m. Dinner with Parish Council (with Spouses) and Diamond Jubilee Sponsors (by Invitation)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

Departure









Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 331/2023

September 20, 2023

Dear Fr. Fouad and all the Clergy and Faithful of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois,

Greetings to you and your families as you celebrate this "diamond" milestone in the life of your parish and your community.

While 60 years seems like so long, as it says in Psalm 90:4 "For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." Nevertheless, anniversaries are a time to reflect and recall the past, but also more importantly to look forward and plan visions for the future. Under the leadership of your pastor, Fr. Fouad Saba, I urge you continue to work together to fill the space of this beautiful church with those searching for the truth, and the safe haven that our Holy Orthodox faith provides. We live in a world that teaches things counter to our Orthodox Christian beliefs. Therefore, we must reach out to those who are searching, and let them know that this house of worship can provide them with the spiritual oasis that they need to lead them to the heavenly kingdom.

As you look to the future, it is my desire that you continue to expand, to seek new ways to solidify the community by exploring different possibilities like a school, a home for the elderly or other means to take care of our faithful and keep them close to the Church in an age whereby there are constantly being pulled away. Strong communities such as yours have the opportunity to do so much. Part of celebrating an anniversary is to examine what the present generation can offer. Your grandparents established this community, your parents built and expanded on what they received. What will be your contribution? With that in mind, I both challenge you and congratulate all of you on our hard work and dedication in making this diamond jubilee weekend so meaningful and joyous.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant rest to the Christ-loving clergy and faithful who have sacrificed and labored for this parish and may be grant all of you, the present clergy and faithful, all of His blessings.

Your Father 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

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

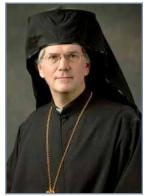
October 2023

Dear Fr. Fouad, Kh. Diana, and the clergy and faithful of St. George,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

What a joy to be with our father and Metropolitan Saba, my brother hierarchs, and all of you on the historic occasion of your 60th Parish Anniversary serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We thank God for the continued good work of Fr. Fouad and Kh. Diana. They follow a line of clergy who faithfully served you and your ancestors. We also thank God for the leaders of the Parish



Council who have continually worked with the clergy for the building up of the Body of Christ. We would be remiss if mention were not made of the blessing God gave you with the weeping icon of **Our Lady of Cicero** in 1994!

As we read the Holy Scripture, we see a series of choices the people of God had to make. Some were wise, faithful, and obedient to God; those we continue to remember in our Divine Services. Others were disobedient, reckless, and thinking only of themselves. It's the first group of righteous which God blessed! From Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to Kings David and Salomon, along with all of the holy prophets who spoke of the Messiah to come who chose to be obedient to God. And we still make choices today, I am thankful for the choices you have made to love God and his Church.

The ministry of this community is not just a ministry of one priest or bishop; it is the ministry of the clergy, the altar servers, chanters, and choir. It is the ministry of the Parish Council, the Antiochian Women, the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, the Teen SOYO, the Church School, and all your organizations. And it is the ministry of each of you who labor in this vineyard and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. For the world will know the Church not only for the clergy, but for the "people of God." And the clergy and people of St. George are known by the light of Christ that shines through them and is expressed in your love.

May God grant this wonderful community and guide your witness of our Risen Christ in Cicero, Illinois for many, many years.

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

The Right Reverend Bishop THOMAS



Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Diocese of Oakland, Charleston, and the Mid-Atlantic

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

OF NORTH AMERICA

October 7, 2023 Sergius & Bacchus the Great Martyrs of Syria

V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church 1220 South 60th Court Cicero, Illinois 60804



Your Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Your Grace Bp. ANTHONY, Fr. Fouad, Fr. Gabriel, Dn. George, Parish Council, and Beloved Faithful of St. George,

May God be with you! What a joy it is to give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for the past sixty years of faithfulness and fruitfulness of the parish of St. George in Cicero, Illinois. Through the faith and love of your founders, a parish grew slowly but steadily to become the spiritual home that would draw together many families from varied backgrounds and ethnicities. Under the inspired pastoral guidance of your pastors St. George became a truly pan-Orthodox parish serving both the greater Chicagoland area as well as the Archdiocese.

Beyond expectation, St. George Church was blessed with the outpouring of grace through the weeping of the icon of the Theotokos on your iconostasis. Faithful from throughout the Archdiocese have travelled to venerate The Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Cicero, and to pray for the intercessions of the Theotokos to her Son and our God.

Out of the ashes of tragedy, the parish of St. George has continued to rise up to give glory to the Holy Trinity, and to welcome many into the fullness of the Orthodox Christian Church. I pray that through your remembrance of all that God has done in and through your parish over the past sixty years, you will find God's words to his people through the Holy Prophet Isaiah to be a description of your life together for the days ahead:

"The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory." (Isaiah 60:19)

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS (Joseph)

Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Oakland, Charleston, and the Mid-Atlantic

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

4407 Kanawha Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304-1734 (724) 787-9832 Phone bothomasioseph@smail.com

The Right Reverend Bishop ALEXANDER



Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate NY

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

OF NORTH AMERICA

Diocese of Ottawa, Castern Canada & Upstate New York

October 7, 2023

Dear Fr. Fouad, Beloved Clergy, Distinguished Members of the Parish Council, and Faithful of St. George-Cicero:

Greetings in the name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

On this, the 60th anniversary and Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the consecration of Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois, I would like to send my heartfelt love and joy to you, your beloved faithful in The Lord, and to the entire community.

Saint George Cicero has been and remains exemplary in its mission and outreach in the Chicago area. It is a community that is best characterized by resiliency, tenacity, benevolence, care, fortitude, and persistence. A community that has encountered profound tragedies like the burning of the original structure and, resounding and miraculous victories in the weeping icon of the Mother of God. The fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary chose to reveal herself and display her greatest act of vulnerability and love by weeping for the faithful of this beloved community is a blessing by itself and a reminder that Christ is always with us and She is always praying for us.

It is my prayer that through the intercession of The Saints, the prayers of Our Lady of Cicero, and the immeasurable and unquantifiable grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, peace, tranquility, love, conciliation, strength, growth, and ultimately salvation will be realized and projected within and amongst the faithful of Saint George and, by extension, to all those who are dear and near to this community.

Sending you my Episcopal blessing and with profound love and prayer I remain,

In Christ,

Bishop ALEXANDER

Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate New York

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

10820 Laverdure St., Montreal, QC H3L 2L9 CANADA (514) 388-4344 Phone themutran@yahoo.com (514) 388-4051 Fax

The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN



Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Diocese of Worcester and New England

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

OF NORTH AMERICA

October 2023

Very Rev. Fouad Saba Community of St. George

Diamond Jubilee - 60th Anniversary of Saint George Church in Cicero

Fr. Fouad and Beloved Community,

Glory be to Jesus Christ!



It is with gratitude to God that I greet you on the 60th Anniversary of your God-protected parish. You have a long and appreciated history of leadership and hospitality. Your love for Christ and His Archdiocese is a testimony of your Christianity that dates back to the holy apostles, martyrs, teachers, and ascetics of the Church.

Anniversaries offer us an opportunity to pause, reflect and rededicate ourselves to our mission. It is a time to offer thanksgiving for God's gifts and for all the people who have served by our sides. It is a time to evaluate what we are doing and to test ourselves to see if we are still focused on our mission. We can then make appropriate adjustments to our work so that all our actions can be God-pleasing. This takes deliberate effort and courage. Courage, I know that you have.

The world that you witness has changed and is rapidly changing even more than the world I was ordained to serve 45 years ago. Today the society is openly hostile toward Christianity. The Christianity the world rejects is not the "Christianity" of your Church, its mission, ethos and faith is different. Our Church offers a real experience of the Living God who calls us to Himself and joins us in our suffering. Our Church preaches a God who loves us even more that we can love ourselves. This God needs to be experienced and shared. Experiencing God and sharing this message is your mission. To evangelize yourselves and then bring Chicago to Christ.

Your parish has had many challenges over the years, but through the prayers and example of your founders, the Community has overcome each of them. May God continue to guide you as you continue to lead the Archdiocese under the vision of Metropolitan SABA, Fr. Fouad, and your respected Council and leaders.

With much respect and love,

In Christ, Bishop John

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

2 Lydia's Path, Westborough, MA 01581-1841 (508) 366-3692 Phone fripa@aol.com Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS



Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of North America

> Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

OF NORTH AMERICA

Your Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Very Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, and The St. George Church faithful,

I greet you in the name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ on the 60th anniversary of St. George Church in Cicero, IL.



Prayer in the Orthodox Church is one of the fundamental pillars of living an Orthodox Christian life since it draws us closer to God and helps us acquire His attributes that are enumerated in the list of Christian virtues. Prayer is a tool to develop a true relationship with God as we, through His grace, strengthen ourselves on all fronts. St. Ephraim the Syrian wants us to take notice of how we draw closer to God and acquire His attributes: "Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance, suppresses anger, restrains pride and envy, draws down the Holy Spirit into the soul and raises man to heaven."

Furthermore, prayer improves our outlook on life as it helps us to concentrate on the important aspects of our existence, God. Please note what St. Isaac the Syrian affirmed about prayer, "Prayer heartens the conscience, invests the mind with power, strengthens one's hope, fires one's confidence. Thus, is manmade able to withstand the tribulations and evils of this world, for when he compares them with the glorious things he is to inherit, he can defy torture and all manner of affliction."

It is through prayer, in addition to diligent work, St. George Church was able to reach its 60th birthday. I would like to urge the faithful to continue the stupendous and attentive work, supported by prayer, in order to endure our fallen world and glorify God through the longevity and perpetual good spiritual health of St. Gerorge's.

May God grant you many years in His service.

In Christ,

+ Bishop NICHOLAG

+Bishop NICHOLAS

Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

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

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The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America



Archpriest Thomas Zain Vicar-General

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese OF NORTH AMERICA

October 2023

Dear Fr. Fouad and Beloved Faithful of St. George:

It is with the greatest joy that I congratulate you on the 60th anniversary of the parish. On the one hand, 60 years is but a grain of sand or a drop of water in terms of eternity, however, on the other hand it represents three generations of faithful, created in the image and likeness of God, laboring through this particular parish to work out their salvation. 60 years ago, the founders from the Middle East planted the seeds of our Orthodox faith in Chicago. Subsequent generations, both clergy and laity working together, have nurtured them into what is one of the beautiful gems of our Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese in North America.

It is a special joy for me to be with you this weekend. I grew up in the Midwest in Grand Rapids, MI, and because of that, many of you are my childhood friends because of the relationships we built from Midwest Teen SOYO/SOYO/Fellowship of St. John the Divine. As adults, it is an honor to continue working closely with some of those same childhood friends as we try to build the archdiocese and build the souls of the faithful.

I pray that the Great Martyr and Trophy-bearer George, your heavenly patron, along with the myrrh-streaming icon of Our Lady of Cicero, will always be an example and inspiration to build upon this solid foundation you have received for another 60 years and beyond. May our Lord strengthen you all to guide you through the ever-changing challenges of the modern world so that your children, and your children's children will have a safe haven in your wonderful parish.

Wishing you all of God's blessings, I remain,

In Christ,

Archpriest Thomas Zain Vicar General and Dean

F. Thum Zi

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Dear Saint George Church Family,

"One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the Earth abides forever." - Ecclesiastes 1:4

I begin first by thanking God for all His blessings upon us. To give thanks is more than saying the words. To truly give thanks is to show this appreciation through our daily action knowing very well what we have received is the gift of life.

I welcome His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, all our venerable Hierarchs, the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, all distinguished dignitaries and guests, and the entire Saint George Church Family to this historic weekend celebration of the Diamond Jubilee – 60th Anniversary of Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois.

We, at the parish, have been given a gift. The gift of community to worship the one God, to learn the Gospel from him and from one another, and to serve him and each other.

This parish has experienced 60 years of worshipping, learning, and serving. Sharing God's love through these means has made us into a community. We have our challenges, we have our past, but we also have our future. Our future is dependent on what we do now, having learned from the past. The future is not written. So, I invite you to write. Above all, God plans, but we must accept His will and His plan. We must go forth to our homes, to our families, to our workplaces, to our friendships and relationships and exert God's love planted within us for 60 years. We must offer God's love and share it with the world.

Then, we would actually be living in gratitude and then we will be planting the seeds for the future based on God's love and not on our doing. Therefore, I am thankful to the almighty Lord who grants us life and then His Grace to sustain it.

I sincerely thank all those who have labored and sacrificed over the years, both clergy and laity, and to all those who continue to build for the future. Our utmost gratitude to the parish council, the esteemed Chairman, Mr. Rammy Zanayed and, to the Chairlady of this momentous celebration, Mrs. Karen Nawas, and her most dedicated committee for a beautiful Diamond Jubilee – 60th Anniversary celebration.

Write, my friends. The future is not written.

In the Lord's Service,

Father Fouad Saba

Father Fouad Saba Pastor



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Saturday, October 7, 2023

To the faithful of St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, as I greet you on your 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, I



am honored to be here with you yet again. St George of Cicero remains my home away from home. On this occasion, I want to welcome with you, Metropolitan Saba and the Board of Trustees. Thank you for hosting us. I began my journey serving on the Board of Trustees here at our Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention and am looking forward to doing so again, with God's help, when your parish hosts in July of 2025.

Your welcome is always as generous as it is warm and sincere. You strive to grow in faith together as a united Antiochian Orthodox Community working cooperatively for the common good. Your example is not lost on the ever-growing youth of this parish who, like you, live their faith. They just swept the Bible Bowl and Oratorical Festival in Phoenix, AZ. Congratulations to them and to this parish for all of your hard work and commitment.

You inspire all of us with your resilience over the years. You rebuilt and grew stronger following the fire in 1997. You continue to meet the needs of your community and that of the archdiocese at large. May each of you carry the words of Proverbs 16:3. Allow these words to guide you always. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Before closing, I want to congratulate Fr. Saba, the clergy, the Jubilee committees, sponsors, and award recipients past and present.

May God grant you many years of continued growth and happiness.

In Christ,

Fawaz El Khoury

Vice Chairman of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America





Your Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Beloved Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Board of Trustees, Distinguished Guests, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ!

Welcome to Chicago! We welcome each of you to our beloved Saint George Church. Celebrating sixty years is no small feat, as it took an army to put not just this glorious week but sixty years together, under the leadership of our Pastor, Fr. Fouad Saba, and our Diamond Jubilee Chairlady, Mrs. Karen Nawas. Thanks to their diligence, the committee and parish are honoring our past, continuously working in the present, and leaving future building blocks. Your support of not merely this milestone occasion, but our parish's history, is awe-inspiring and uplifting.

Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois, started in the early 1960s with humble beginnings, in basements, worshiping in various locations, before settling in Oak Park. Under two pastors and countless individuals, many small and grand bedrocks were established there that serve us to this day. These founders, benefactors, and chairpersons paved the way. When the time came to relocate, Cicero was chosen as our home, with two more pastors, for thirty-nine more years and counting. Our history is full of honor and conviction, service and dedication, fellowship and worship. Faces may have changed, but the spirit stays the same.

Whether in Oak Park, Cicero, or another destination yet unknown, our story is similar to many Antiochian Orthodox Christian parishes throughout this Archdiocese. There were sixty years of sweat and tears, surprises and mainstays, education and vision. The latter two make up Orthodoxy. For sixty years, this is the mission here at Saint George Church. As one of the greatest orators and saints in Christendom, Saint John Chrysostom, uttered, "The primary goal in the education of children is to teach, and to give the example of, a virtuous life." Decades of volunteers have sown seeds of proper Christian education to enrich and empower our children to become pillars and boldly grab the baton of Christianity for generations to come. Guided by a solid Christian foundation, their collective vision will spearhead the future of The Word into all parts of the globe. Vision to build more Churches full of willing, obedient, and devout Orthodox Christians nearer to their homes.

Our history is full of heroes and heroines, clergy and laity, rich and poor, staff and volunteers, visitors and parishioners. Amazingly, but not surprisingly, we have survived so much: a birth to officially establish a parish in 1963, property purchases, clergy, staff and leadership transitions. Many organizations and ministries were established to best serve one of the most populated communities in this beloved Archdiocese. Selfless volunteers in leadership and service roles did their part in both establishing, sustaining, and elevating Saint George Church. Blessed beyond words by the shedding of tears of "Our Lady of Cicero" on April 22, 1994, that to this day is a miracle placing our parish in rarefied air. Visitors globally still visit and venerate the "Theotokos" icon on our iconostasis. Even a horrific fire could not stain or impede our progress, for through expansion, we marched right along. Always a leader, this parish has hosted many regional Parish Life Conferences, three Archdiocese National Conventions in 1971, 1999, 2011, and will be proudly hosting the next one in 2025.

In conclusion, I consider serving as Chairman during this momentous occasion as cherished and humbling as it felt serving my first term as Teen SOYO or Fellowship President. Being a part of an Orthodox Christian family, serving throughout our lifetimes as brothers and sisters in Christ, learning from, discussing with, and volunteering together for the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the fairest distinction known to humankind. Thank you to everyone involved, from current to past clergy, leaders, teachers, volunteers, supporters, and parishioners for their hand in spreading Orthodox Christianity to future generations. No matter where we congregate or pray, Christ is our home, whether north, south, east or west. Let's continue the story that is Saint George Church in the greater Chicagoland area to a location near you. God bless you and Saint George Church.

In Christ,

Rammy Issa Zanayed

Rammy Issa Zanayed Parish Council Chairman



Your Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Your Graces, Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, Mr. Rammy Zanayed, Parish Council Chairman, and the Esteemed Member of the Parish, distinguished Dignitaries, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I write with great joy, humbled to serve as the Chairlady of this historic celebration commemorating the Diamond Jubilee, 60th Anniversary of Saint George



Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois. Furthermore, having the honor to welcome His Eminence on this historical inaugural visit to Chicago, I pray you have found a community of faith, hospitality, family.

A Diamond Jubilee celebrates the 60th anniversary of a significant event related to a person or the 60th anniversary of an institution's founding. Diamonds are formed under intense heat and pressure over many years and become something beautiful and shining. They are brilliant because they are multifaceted, just like the many people that make up the Church. We received a gift, a diamond if you will, from those who have labored, struggled, and dedicated themselves through hardships to found, build, and sustain, all by God's grace this church over the last 60 years.

This event is not just a milestone celebrating the past, but a steppingstone into the future. It is up to us to not allow the work of the last 60 years to be in vain but to continue to build upon this foundation. Through the labors and sacrifices and commitment of many servants that have come and gone, the Church is always here. I pray that we continue to respond to the command of The Great Commission and work over the next 40 years toward the Centennial of this Church and spreading the beautiful Antiochian Orthodox faith throughout this city through the families of all our children and the next generation.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to the entire committee that has worked tirelessly over the last several months preparing for this amazing celebration weekend. To the future 100th Anniversary Centennial Committee, we hope you outshine the Diamond Jubilee and we pray that the Antiochian Orthodox Church is shining brilliantly throughout Chicago as a beacon of light, following Christ.

Happy 60th Anniversary to the entire Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church family!

Yours in Christ,

Karen Mawas

Karen Nawas Diamond Jubilee Chairlady



RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

MAJORITY WHIP

United States Senate WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

October 7, 2023

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my congratulations to St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church and its community as you join to celebrate your 60th Anniversary.

As a member of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, St. George's has served as a pillar in the Chicagoland Arab-American community for more than half of a century. Since its establishment, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church has welcomed immigrants from the Middle East, including Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, and serves as the spiritual home to more than 1000 families.

Please accept my congratulations to all celebrating this momentous occasion today with St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator





STATE CAPITOL HOUSE POST OFFICE SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

STATE OF ILLINOIS

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ABDELNASSER RASHID STATE REPRESENTATIVE 21ST DISTRICT

Esteemed V. Rev. Fouad Saba and the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church community,

I am writing to express my congratulations to St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. Since its inception, St. George Church has been a cornerstone for the thousands of the Christian Arab American community throughout the Midwest.

With more than a thousand families from diverse backgrounds, including from Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and other countries, St. George Church is a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions that enrich the Chicagoland area. The church has played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the heritage of these communities while fostering a sense of unity and belonging among its members.

On October 7th, as the St. George community comes together to celebrate their 60th year of service, I extend my congratulations. I look forward to our collaboration and partnership in the years to come.

Sincerely,

State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid

SOVIELAN ENES



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The education of our youth is vital to sustaining the growth of any parish. It is a feat that should be at the forefront of discussions surrounding the future planning of the Church. Our patron saint of Sunday School, Saint John Chrysostom said, "let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord". I would argue that the most vital education we can provide our children is the importance of living each day strong in their faith, and to ensure they know who they are and Whose they are. We are striving to do just that with our robust Sunday School curriculum and extracurricular activities centered around the Orthodox Christian values we hope to instill in the youth of our congregation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Sunday School staff for their dedication to the youth, and the future of our Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church. To the past staff and teachers, you are the reason we still have a parish today, thank you for the love and energy you poured into teaching in Sunday School.

On behalf of the Saint George Sunday School officers, teachers, assistants, and volunteers, I would like to congratulate Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Church. May God grant her many, many years to come!

Yours in our Resurrected Christ,

Lillian Rihani

Lillian Rihani

Sunday School Principal

Dear Saint George Family,

On behalf of the Antiochian Women of Saint George, I extend our warmest congratulations to all of you on the occasion of our beloved Church's 60th Anniversary. This is a momentous milestone that reflects six decades of faith, love, and commitment to our shared spiritual journey.

I have been a part of this great parish for most of my life, and for the last two years have had the privilege to serve as the Antiochian Women President. Working closely with the women of Saint George has taught me the true meaning of sisterhood and has been a tremendous source of inspiration. The countless hours we have spent in the various charitable, humanitarian, spiritual and social activities have created memories that we will cherish forever. The Thanksgiving dinner preparation, making the ka'ak and ma'amoul, or the retreat at the Antiochian Village, to name a few, has strengthened our bonds and created a bridge across generations of Antiochian Women. We are grateful that our Church provides a place where we can build friendships, find hope, and grow our faith in Christ as Orthodox Christians.

Reaching this remarkable milestone is a blessing that would not have been possible without the dedication of our clergy, the tireless efforts of our volunteers, and the support of our parish.

Congratulations to each and every one of you on this 60th Anniversary. May Saint George Church continue to be a place of spiritual growth, community, and service for generations to come.

Your sister in Christ,

Abeer Imseeh Kari

Abeer Imseeh Kari

Antiochian Woman President



Congratulations, Saint George Church, on 60 blessed years!

Thank you to the generation before for laboring for our beloved Church. I am honored to be a part of Saint George Church and to serve in the Young Adult Fellowship from 2021–2024.

What does it mean to serve in the Young Adult Fellowship? It means to build something beyond oneself. To serve is to love. It has always been my intention to ensure that young people feel that Saint George Church is their home. For 28 years of my life, I have found immense meaning in giving myself to the Church. Serving has given me a purpose. God called my spirit to lead others toward God's word and way. Only God's way can fulfill the meaning of our lives.

While serving as President, I felt a spiritual need was missing among Young Adults, many of whom were spiritually thirsty without realizing it. Our mission is to bring the spirit back into our organization. That means to bring the right intention and heart into everything we do. In this particular time, values may be confused, and souls may be lost, but there are still those who seek, ask, and knock. Our organization is growing, and we must continue to serve those in search of God's light. I have found that one of the most important aspects of our lives is being in a community. The Young Adult Fellowship serves as that community where we support each other through both hardship and joy. We deeply care about the Church and Christ in a world that often dismisses Him entirely.

Most importantly, it is the relationships that we build together and the struggles we persevere together. Christ calls us to be in community and to serve one another. Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." I truly believe God blesses each of us with talents that we must use to aid in the mission of the Church. While serving, I found myself becoming like an older sister to young ladies who do not have one. What a blessing to guide and know others more deeply.

The Fellowship is not just a group of people, we are people who care about the integrity of our Church and the individuals in it. As Young Adults, we must consistently set examples and lead within our community, knowing that younger generations closely observe our actions and words. What will we choose to do? Will we choose to encourage, uplift, and cultivate God's goodness? Will we choose to forgive as God commands us? This is the nature of what we are building together as a Church family.

What I would tell this next generation is, be unafraid to step up and lead. Christ may call you to serve in a capacity you have not before. Remember to trust in Him, as He will equip you with the right tools in the process. There were times that I felt unfit to lead, however, God provided the right supportive people to surround me with which allowed me to continue working in greater faith. This is all for His purpose. Take the call for in that lies a journey ahead that you did not know you needed. Christ calls us to serve with our talents and apply them freely with a giving heart. Your service may be the next thing another person needs, and in that, we are working towards the purpose of Christ.

Second, do not allow what you feel about yourself to hinder God's value in you and what He can use your life for. The evil one tends to find his way, cast him out, and focus on the goodness around. Take responsibility for what you believe and truly live it.

I am blessed and honored to be a part of Saint George Church and look forward to all the growth in the next 60 years, God willing!

Love,

Jeanette Habash

Jeanette Habash

Young Adult Fellowship President



Christ is in our Midst! He is and ever shall Be!

Your Eminence, Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Being able to lead and serve Teen SOYO has been so meaningful for me these past 3 years as an officer, especially during this milestone year of the Diamond Jubilee. As I grew up in the Church, I always knew I wanted to have something to do with the Church and give back to our faith-filled community. I used to look up to those teens before me and admire how they brought a certain kind of energy to Church every week.

I never thought the day would come so soon when I began my journey as a leader in the Church. I was so excited about my first year in Teen SOYO, but my first year as a member of Teen SOYO lasted about one month and then the pandemic hit. Everything came to a halt for a moment in time. It saddened me how empty the Church was when I would watch the live stream on Sundays, and I wanted to just be there and fill the Church with life again. I knew that the more time the youth had to sit at home, the more comfortable they became, and soon could forget all about the Church. My vision to recreate that energy I once felt as a little child soon dwindled away week by week. But when you have Father Saba as your Pastor, the youth is the number one thing on his mind. He, along with some of the officers at the time, had planned out events for Teen SOYO to do online. For instance, we had the first virtual Good Friday Vigil. There was a huge turnout, everyone was so excited to see each other after nobody had seen anyone in awhile. These months made me think a lot about life and how the youth needs the Church more than ever right now, and it's our job to be Apostles reaching out to one another, not waiting for someone else to do it.

I am grateful for an active Teen SOYO to help guide us and give us the truth we need instead of trying to fill ourselves with the emptiness that society tries to feed us. My hopes and dreams for Teen SOYO is that the Church fills every part of our lives. Now we are vibrant and active, competing in the Midwest and National competitions this year and sweeping both! Traveling on pilgrimages like Washington D.C., together and forming bonds. The teens are not the future of the Church, we <u>are</u> the Church, and it is through us that this Christ-centered community and Orthodox lifestyle continues. I pray that all my fellow teens, and the teens I have yet to meet, grow in the community as one body of Christ raising our families and opening the time capsule in 40 years. I am looking forward to celebrating many more years of the Antiochian Church growing in Chicago through us going out and being Apostles of Christ. May God bless us and every generation after.

Happy 60th Anniversary Saint George!

In Christ,

Alexander S. Mawas

Alexander S. Nawas Teen SOYO President



Dear Saint George Family,

On this joyous occasion of your 60th Anniversary, The Order of Saint Ignatius Saint George Cicero Chapter would like to extend our warmest congratulations and heartfelt blessings. Six decades of faith, community, and service are an incredible achievement, a testament to the unwavering dedication of our community.

The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch (The Order) is an organization of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (Antiochian Archdiocese), with the objective of financially supporting the departments, programs and charitable works of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Patriarchate of Antioch and the Orthodox Christian faith. The Order assists the Antiochian Archdiocese in its continued effort to reach out to all in need and bring to them the message of the Gospel.

The Order of Saint Ignatius Saint George Cicero Chapter was founded in September 2019 as a vision of our spiritual advisor, Fr. Fouad Saba. The mission of this Chapter is to bring the philanthropic nature of The Order to a local level. As I reflect on my journey as the Chairwoman of The Order, I'm honored to be part of a community that has been a beacon of light through its commitment to God's work and has touched countless lives, inspiring and uplifting all who have walked through the doors.

Congratulations once again on this momentous occasion. May God's grace continue to shine upon our Church as we embark on the next chapter of our journey together.

With warm regards and prayers,

Dena H. Fasheh

Dena H. Fasheh

The Order of Saint Ignatius Saint George Cicero Chapter Chairwoman



Your Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Hierarchs, Clergy, and Parishioners of Saint George Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

On the 60th anniversary of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, I want to extend my love and appreciation and congratulate our Church and community. May Saint George continue to be a beacon of light so we can always find our way in the darkness of this earthly world.

I want to offer this message of love:

Our God is all love and powerful, there is no God like our God for He is love.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

As darkness is the absence of light, and so is evil, it is the absence of God, and to be a Christian is to live in Christ, for Christianity isn't a religion, but the way we live. Let Christ shine through you, that is what I always tell my children.

We will not know God until we know love, and we will not feel His grace, until we are humble.

May you be blessed always.

In Christ,

Jeries Micola Kahoush

Jeries Nicola Kahoush

Antiochian Men President



Flistory of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church Cicero, Illinois

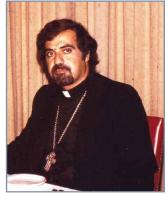
Roots are not merely important, they are paramount to understanding both the present and future. Christians have always sought a communal place to congregate and worship. For the Metropolitan Chicagoland area in the 1960s, momentum started to build towards the formation of a parish to house a growing Middle Eastern Orthodox Christian community's need to worship together. The exact



origins are inexact or unknown, but what is known is that worship started in many clubs, basements and houses. Finally, in 1960, many families petitioned the late Metropolitan ANTONY (Bashir) for a priest to serve the Divine Liturgy. Services were held at the Syrian-Lebanese Club House on Washington Boulevard and Laramie Avenue on Chicago's West

Side or in rented quarters. Among the first priests to serve on a weekend basis was the Reverend Father Philip Giffin, commuting from Buffalo, New York. Priests from the Greek Diocese of Chicago served periodically at Saint George, as well. The first regular clergy came when the Reverend Father John Newcombe served as the first resident priest for the parish from 1965 to 1966.

In the late fall of 1966, the newly-appointed Metropolitan PHILIP (Saliba) sent the Reverend Father Antony Gabriel to serve as the first full-time Pastor at Saint George Church. Father Antony set out to purchase a Church building from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, assisted by their bishop, the Right Reverend James Montgomery. Saint George Church purchased the former Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Oak Park, becoming the first permanent home of the parish.



Father Antony soon initiated many ministries: Teen SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations), Antiochian Women (Ladies' Guild), and the Brotherhood of the Noble Joseph (Altar Servers, Chanters, Choir). Along with original members,

many Orthodox Christian ethnicities joined the parish, including Greeks, Serbians, and Russians, and a few American converts. A few short years later, the parish hosted the Biennial Archdiocesan Convention in 1970, and helped develop the present format for subsequent conventions. After serving nearly eight years, Father Antony was transferred to the pastorate of Saint George Church in Washington, D.C., in September 1975. He left behind an irreversible heritage



of dedication, energy, and the pursuit of excellence. While waiting for the permanent replacement, the parishioners in Chicago were served for a few months by Father Paul Doyle.

A new pastor arrived with the Right Reverend Father Athanasios Emmert, formerly of Saint Mary's Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his pastorate, in the late 1970s, parish membership changed and grew due to an influx of new immigrants, mainly from Palestine and Jordan. To accommodate the needs of these new parishioners and to involve them fully in the life of the parish, Father Athanasios worked extremely

hard to nurture all the parish organizations. Under his leadership the Church won numerous Midwest Diocesan awards, including Best SOYO Chapter and Bible

Bowl Championships.

As the parish grew and flourished in the late 1970s and early 1980s, it became apparent that the current Oak Park location could not continue

to serve future needs adequately. In 1979, a building committee was formed to



seek a larger place for worship. This search concluded in 1983 in nearby Cicero. After years of fundraising, on May 1, 1984, the members of Saint George Church purchased a former Korean Presbyterian Church located at 1220 South 60th Court. This complex included Sunday School classrooms, a parish hall, rectory, and parking lot. The interior of the Church required extensive renovation and modification to adapt it

for Orthodox Christian worship. Barely a month later, in June of 1984, the parish hosted the 37th Annual Midwest Region Parish Life Conference (PLC).

In December 1985, Father Emmert requested a leave of absence. While the parish awaited the appointment of a permanent priest, its pastoral needs were met on an interim basis by the Reverend Father Vladimir Christi and Father Michael Tahan.

In June 1986, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP appointed the Very Reverend Father Nicholas Dahdal to serve and lead the community. Father Nicholas would provide the leadership and vision to guide the parish going forward. In the following years, the parish accomplished several major projects: the renovation of the Fellowship Hall, installation of air conditioning units, and purchase of

an adjacent property, increasing

the parking area.

The history of Saint George

Church has been blessed by the Grace of God on several occasions, from establishing a parish in the early days to recovering from a tragic fire. However, most miraculously on April 22, 1994, the parishioners of Saint George Church witnessed God's grace as He restored and strengthened our faith. The Icon of the Theotokos on the Church's Iconostasis began to shed tears during the Friday night service before Lazarus Saturday. His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed memory formally declared the Weeping



Icon a miracle and named it "The Miraculous Weeping Icon of Our Lady of Cicero." Instantaneously, the Church was swarmed with visitors, initially blocks long, waiting to view this miracle and be anointed by her tears, administered by Father Dahdal and other clergy. Until present-day, numerous miracles and tens



of thousands of visitors have been healed or moved by this miracle. A few short months later, Saint George Church also hosted another Midwest Region Parish Life Conference (PLC) over which His Grace Bishop BASIL (Essey) presided.

In December of 1997, tragedy struck when an electrical problem resulted in a fire to much of the interior of the sanctuary, especially surrounding the altar

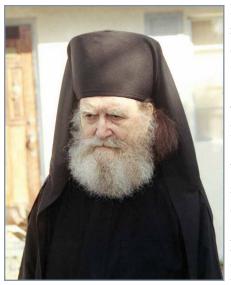
area. For much of the eighteen months, Church services were held at a school gymnasium across the street, and later at a renovated warehouse, purchased by the Parish. Determined to overcome this major obstacle, the parish undertook

a major Church renovation and expansion project. The altar was replaced in its entirety, and a new iconostasis obtained from Greece was installed. The entire





interior was modified and extended, as the exterior was cleaned and restored. The Fellowship Hall was renovated, later rented out as a banquet hall to the parish and non-members.



Immediately after "The Lady of Cicero" miracle, an elderly monk named Brother Symeon relocated to live and serve at Saint George Church until his passing away roughly four years later, protecting the icon, especially during the fire.

In 1998, an expansion to the Sunday School facility via construction of an adjacent building was completed, increasing the number of classrooms to ten. In 1999, Saint George Church, having just completed the restoration of the Church after the fire, hosted the 44th Antiochian Archdiocesan Convention, where his Beatitude IGNATIUS IV presided over this historic event, dubbed

"Convention of the Century," and was attended by over 3,500 people, including many dignitaries.

Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois, is a leader among the community, hosting several Pan-Orthodox events, including the Sunday of Orthodox Pan-Orthodox Vespers.

On October 14, 2001, the newly restored and expanded Saint George Church was dedicated, and the altar was consecrated, to the glory of God, by His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed memory. In 2005, another Midwest Diocese Parish Life Conference (PLC) was hosted by Saint George Church in Cicero.

In July of 2011, Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois, was honored to host yet another Antiochian Archdiocese Convention. Merely twelve years apart from the last hosted convention, the parish took the responsibility of hosting yet another.

From September 27 to 29, 2013, the Saint George Church Cicero parish joyously celebrated its 50th Anniversary with the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed memory. This anniversary began with the official establishment of a parish in the Chicagoland area back in 1963, and does not include years before of



congregating together. The entire weekend was a celebration of the incredible levels of commitment, diligence, fellowship, sacrifice, and worship for half a century. Mere months later, Saint George Church and the entire Antiochian Archdiocese was rocked by the news of the falling asleep of its shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed memory. The impact and importance of all His Eminence possessed and sacrificed for the entire Church in North America and the Middle East cannot be overstated. May his memory be eternal!

In June of 2017, yet another blessing came with hosting the Parish Life Conference (PLC) once again. Over the course of the parish's history, many clergy served as assistant priests, including Father Bill Caldaroni, Father Mark Haas, Father Dale Autrey, Father Malek Rihani, Father Fouad Saba, Father Joseph Abouid, and Father Mark Sahady. Saint George Church was faithfully served by the late Deacon Bassam Alsweis for 12 years as a Deacon until his passing in 2016. In November of 2018, the pastorate of Father Nicholas Dahdal concluded after over thirty-two

years of commitment, hard work, and dedication, helping to grow the parish exponentially.

On February 3, 2019, the Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba was transferred to Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois. Born in Chicago and serving his entire life within the community, Father Saba was welcomed and hit the ground running. In November of that year, the 25th Anniversary of the "Our Lady of Cicero" shedding tears was celebrated with an extensive weekend set of festivities, including many hierarchs, dignitaries, and the greater community in attendance.





Throughout the course of the history of Saint George Church, from its origins in residences and basements to homes in Oak Park and Cicero, much has been dreamt and accomplished. Saint George Church is considered a

pillar to many communities, both locally and nationally.

Many organizations were established and grown, ministries have increased and served many, and worship services have united and educated the parish for nearly sixty years! The enriched past assists the parish of today and will into the future for generations to come. God is great!

Through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and Saint George the Great Martyr, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.





St. George's Church Chicagellinois

"THE CHICAGO STORY"

"The Chicago Story" of the Antiochian Orthodox Church is a short story. It may be premature to suggest that it has a happy ending, but many of us here in the Windy City are com-inced that it will.

Chicago has long been an enigma to the Orthodox of the venerable Antiochian tradition. For years they ha'e been saying, "We should have a parish in Chicago." "It's sinful that we don't have a Syrian congregation here."

At the same time, as oil·late great Metropolitan Archbishop Antony observed, the Syrian Orthodox in the Chicago area were surprisingly few in number and scattered widely throughout the city and its far-flung suburbs. Furthermore, the larger Syrian Roman Catholic populations of the Maronite and Melkite rites assimilated some Orthodox families and in-là'iduals through intermarriage and proselytism.

Attempts were made from time lo time to organize a congregation in Chicago, but nothing substantial materialized. The occasional visits of priests and prelates likewise produced no lasting results.

Some Syrian Orthodox, putting their religion before nationalistic and cultural considerations, joined various Hellenic or Slavic parishes in the Chicago area, although only a few entered fully into the life of a parish. Most of these persons made nominal pledges and attended the Divine Lituqy with varying degrees of regularity. A great many-the majority, perhaps-attended Protestant services and still others irregularly attended Mass at the nearest Roman Catholic parish.

In 1961 a serious effort was made to organize a congregation of the Antiochian tradition in Chicago and



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS: Fr. Antony Gabriel and Subdeacon Demitri Colloitito with parishioners of the Church at a recent Service.

vicinity. Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neimy, a tiny group of Orthodox scanned the massive Chicago telephone book for Arabic sounding names, compiled lists of prospective members and began the slow process of parochial organization. A parish president, Mr. Sam Saad, was elected. A Sunday School was organized. The ladies of the parish formed a club which met once a month and has continued to meet regularly since that time. Subsequent parish presidents were Mr. Joe Gazell and our present council president, Mr. Thomas Neimy.

Arranl{cments were made to use the S_y, ian-Lebanese clubhouse located in the Austin district of Chicago and, in response to a directive from Metropolitan Antony, Father Philip Giffin of Buffalo, New York, flew to Chicago and began a twicemonthly visitation p ram, flyin in Friday afternoon and departing Sunday evening.

After some months, this heroic but

impractical arrangement was terminated and Father Steve Zanis, previously of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, began to serve the infant twelve-or fifteen-family congregation. Unforunately this ministry was on a part-time Sunday-morning-only basis, as Father Zanis had other employment and responsibilities. Another Greek priest "on loan" from the Greek Archdiocese, Father K. Petrovas, succeeded Father Zanis after a few months and served the Syrian congregation on and off for several years. Father Petrovas was extremely well liked by the people despite his limited command of En-Klish, which prompted the use of Greek almost entirely throughout the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

In the periods between priests the Chicago group dispersed and attended other churches, some Orthodox. On a few occasions the Service of the Typika was sung and a sermonette delivered. Bein litu[brically and sacerdotally oriented,

April, 1967

Page 1



FI. ANTONY GABRIEL with some of the parlihloners of St. George's Church, Oak Parle, IIUnoli.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, continued

however, the people responded feebly to this type of missionary church serice. The need for a full time priest became increasingly apparent.

Father John Newcombe became the first full-time priest of St. George's congregation in October of 1965 and served the group until the fall of 1966. Under his leadership St. George's Parish vacated the clubhouse and began holding services in a fonner Lutheran Church in the Logan Square area of Chicago. A building fund was launched but, unfortunately, this did not succeed, and the small congregation was forced to return to the makeshift arrangement in the Syrian clubhouse.

The appointment of Father Antony Gabriel by Metropolitan Philip Saliba in December 1966 marked a new era in the short and somewhat turbulent history of the Chicago congregation. Father Antony began aggrelifilve pro!{rams-and simultaneously!-for (1) a church edifice, (2) a reorganized Sunday School, (3) an improved choir, (4) a SOYO chapter, (5) a new Parish Council, (6) Orthodox student work at the University of Illinois in Chicago and at the University of Chicago, (7) a pan-Orthodox laity movement in Chicago, (8) an association of Orthodox clergy in the area, and (9) a program of "community awareness and involvement" to induce the Orthodox to abandon an essentially

"ghetto mentality" and look objt"C lively at conditions, movements, and activities in their neighborhoods, surrounding areas, and throughout the world. As Father Antony declared in one of his sermons, "Christ is not only within these four walls-within our Orthodox temples: He is also cul there in the streets. Our brothers arc not only here and close to us: they, too, arc out there in the world. We Orthodox must bear witness to our Lord and God out there in the world, even as we must resist becoming of the world.

The burden of half of the activity initiated by this dedicated young priest would stagger the average pastor!

Within two months' time enough Syrian Orthodox had rallied to Father Antony's call to raise the necessary \$10,000 for a down payment on the purchase of a former Episcopalian church and rectory of brick construction in suburban Oak Park. In addition to all the other things which Father Antony had accomplished, he had located this property and, with the able council of Mr. George Haddad, attorney and member of St. George's Parish, had negotiated the purchase at a very reasonable price from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. In the organizing (or re-organizing as the case might be) of the Sunday School, of the choir, of SOYO, and of the Parish

Council, many of Father Antony's other objectives came to be realized. The Ladies' Club continued to be the mainstay of St. George's Pa'ish.

Recently a Pan-Orthodox Youth Training Seminar was held in the newly acquired church center in Oak Park. O pranized and conducted by Father Antony, this was the first program of its kind in Chicago. This outstanding event attracted nearly one hundred persons from the Greek, Russian, Roumanian, and Serbian dioceses, both clergy and laity. Bishop Finnilian of the Serbian Church was the celebrant. Other seminars are planned for the spring.

Attendance at Divine Liturgy has steadily increased. Just recently the Sunday morning census, of this tiny parish which used to number twenty-file or thirty, passed the one hundred mark! Some of the newer families who are attending services and joining the parish arc the results of "mixed marriages" in which the Orthodox partner has brought the non.Orthodox one into the fold.

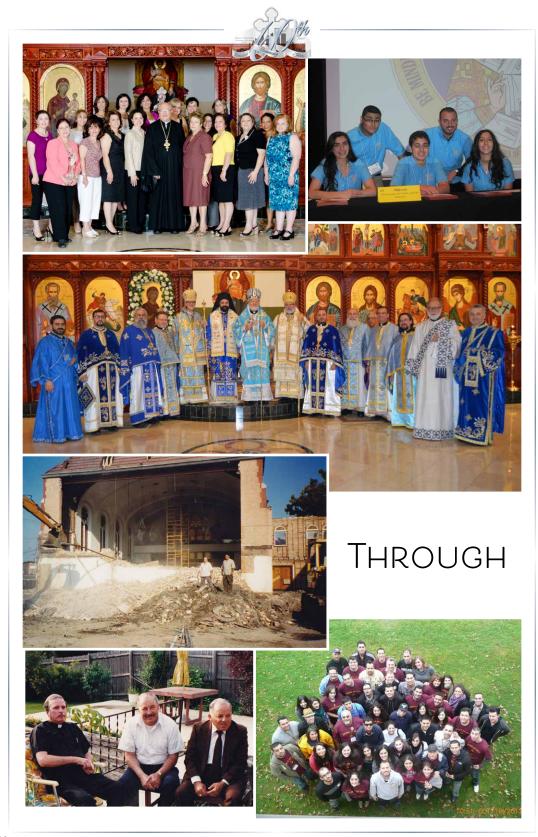
This year on June 22 through 25 St. George's Church of Chi_{cag}o will be host to the twentieth annual Midwest SOYO Convention to be held at the ele ant Sheraton-Chicago Hotel. Mr. Fred Harb, who is promoting an aggressive campaign to create a large attendanc<, promises to make this event an outstanding attraction.

The success of St. George's Church in 1967 seems to be due to (I) the inspiration and encouragement of our new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Philip Saliba; (2) the generous financial support given by SOYO who have contributed missionary funds to help our young congregation get on its feet until we, in turn, can help other struggling parishes organize, buy a building, and find a priest; (3) our use of the English language in the Liturgy except for some of the Troparia, the Epistle, and special music such as that used in Holy Weck which everyone finds very attractive in Arabic; (4) the fine location of our church in picturesque Oak Park; and (5) om dynamic and dedicated pastor, Father Antony Gabriel.

One of the elders of St. George's Church recently stated that "We'll soon outgrow this nice building." He may be absolutely right!

- HENRY C. ALLAN, JR.

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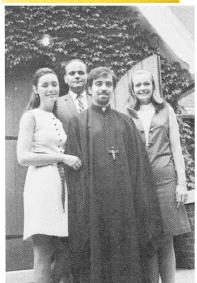
















THE





YEARS!





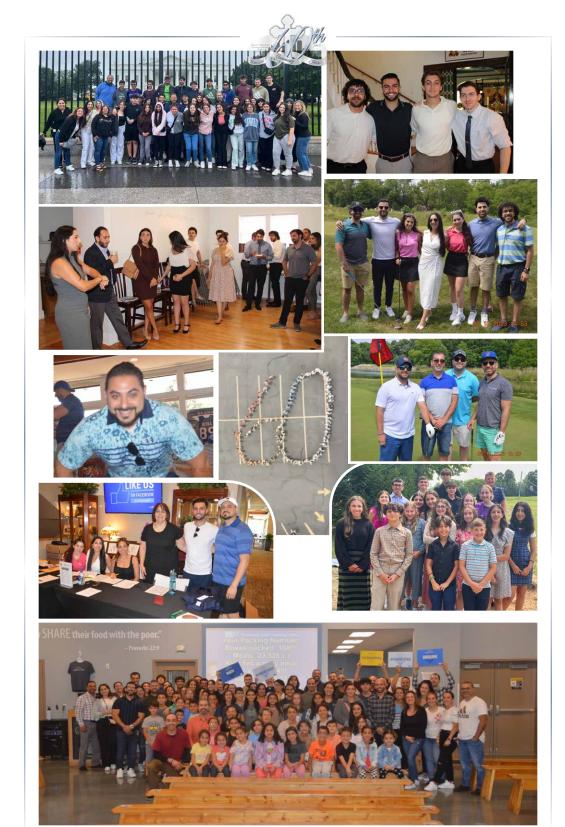


















Pastors of Saint George Church



†Father Antony Gabriel 1966-1976



†Father Athanasios Emmert 1976-1985



Father Nicholas Dahdal 1986-2018

^{*} Interim Pastors and Assistant Priests not listed here





Father Fouad Saba 2019-Present

The Very Reverend Father Fouad Saba is a graduate of North Park University ('03) with a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies. Born in 1980 and raised on the north side of Chicago, less than a mile from North Park, Father Saba balanced his Chicago background along with



his Palestinian Heritage. He grew up loving literature, poetry, movies, and languages. Born into a family of Palestinian Refugees, he was closely attached to his heritage and the Arabic language. He developed a great admiration for the history of the Middle East, its people, and, through this, the Holy Scriptures.

Father Saba was baptized and raised as an Orthodox Christian belonging to Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois. After graduating from North Park University, he was accepted as an Archdiocesan Seminarian in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. His Seminary Studies began in the Fall of 2003, eventually graduating in 2007 with a Master's Degree in Divinity from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York. It was at Saint Vladimir's where he seriously began learning the Holy Scriptures as an adult. His inspiration was and still is the Very Reverend Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi, who truly has started a modern Scriptural revival in the Orthodox Church in this country and abroad (www.ocabs.org).

Father Saba returned to Chicago after Seminary, where he served as Church Administrator at our church. He was married in August of 2007 to his lovely wife, Diana, whom he met in Palestine in 2005. His ordination to the Holy Diaconate came soon after marriage, quickly followed by his ordination to the Holy Priesthood in January of 2008. He served as the Assistant Priest at Saint George Church in Cicero, Illinois, for four years closely working with the youth and young adults, developing various programs which served scores of young people in the Church.

In the summer of 2010, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed Memory appointed Father Saba as the Spiritual Advisor of Midwest Diocese SOYO. The following spring, His Eminence appointed him as Spiritual Advisor of the North American Council of SOYO, a position he would hold for the next four years.

In the Fall of 2011, Father Saba and his family received notice of his new assignment as Dean of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Coral Gables, Florida. This new assignment began on January 1, 2012. Upon arrival in Florida, Father Saba, in conjunction with the Cathedral Council, quickly organized the Cathedral and its operations. Realizing the enormous debt looming heavy over everyone as a dark cloud, he sought to improve the overall environment for the parishioners beginning with spirituality, education, pastoral needs, various ministries, youth work, outreach, financial stability, and other important elements which the Cathedral enjoys today as strong focuses for the future. In the Spring of 2012, the Cathedral began efforts to host the Archdiocese (National) Convention to be held in July of 2017. His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice-Blessed Memory joyfully accepted this request in June of 2012.

On Sunday, January 10, 2016, Father Saba was elevated to the Dignity of Archpriest by the laying on of hands of His Grace Bishop ANTOUN at Saint George Cathedral in Coral Gables, Florida, amidst many family members and friends from around the country and the Middle East.

In January of 2019, Father Saba and his family received notice of his new assignment as Pastor of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois. This new assignment began on February 1, 2019. He continues to serve with this new responsibility by the Grace of God.

Father Saba, Khoureh Diana, and their children, Katherine and Mousa currently reside in Darien, Illinois.

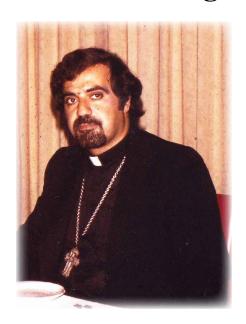


†ARCHIMANDRITE ANTONY GABRIEL PASTOR, SAINT GEORGE CHURCH, OAK PARK 1966-1976

"I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple."

— Prayer upon entering a Church

Honoring the Legacy of our beloved late founding Pastor



"... With the Spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest to the soul of thy servant O Savior..."— Memory Eternal!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!





CLERGY AND FAMILIES



(L-R): CATALINA CORONEL, ANA CORONEL, KH. AMELIA CORONEL, V. REV. FR. GABRIEL CORONEL, DN. GEORGE NASSIEF, V. REV. FR. FOUAD SABA, KH. DIANA SABA, KATHERINE SABA, MOUSA SABA.



Brotherhood of the Noble Joseph



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CHANTERS



CHOIR



YOUTH CHOIR



2023 Parish Council



<u>standing (l-r):</u> Dr. Johnny Kuttab, Suhail Qumri, Joseph Rihani, Jeries Kahoush, Karen Nawas, Eddy Shaheen, George Conopeotis, Lillian Rihani, Dena Fasheh, Tammi Karam, Alexander Nawas, Yazen Fakhouri, Jeanette Habash, Abeer Kari

<u>seated (l-r):</u> Mansour Rayan, Dr. Miriam Haddad, Rammy Zanayed, V. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Coronel, V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, Dn. George Nassief, Elias Akkari, Darlene Haddad

<u>NOT PICTURED:</u> FARES BANNOURAH, DR. NADER FAKHOURY, ELIE HAIG, MICHAEL MOUKHEIBER. MINA RANTISI



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF



SUNDAY SCHOOL PREK/KINDERGARTEN



SUNDAY SCHOOL 1ST/2ND GRADES



SUNDAY SCHOOL 3RD/4TH GRADES



SUNDAY SCHOOL 5TH GRADE



SUNDAY SCHOOL 6TH GRADE



SUNDAY SCHOOL 7TH/8TH GRADES



SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL



Antiochian Women (AW)



YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (YAF)



TEEN SOYO



JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH (J.O.Y.)



The Order of Saint Ignatius-Cicero Chapter



ANTIOCHIAN MEN (A-MEN)

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF



<u>STANDING (L-R):</u> SAMAR RIHANI-ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, VERONICA EGAN-OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, ADRIANA MARQUEZ-CUSTODIAN, HOLLY GOLJIĆ-GRAPHIC DESIGNER

<u>seated (L-r)</u>: V. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Coronel-Assistant Priest, V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba-Pastor, Dn. George Nassief, Yazen Fakhouri-Director of Youth Programs













WELCOME Metropolitan SABA!



CONGRATULATIONS Saint George Church!

Elias, Maggie, Jacob, and Antoinette Akkari





CONGRATULATIONS to our mother, YASMIN HADDAD, on her Legacy Medal for her service to our parish!

From Teen SOYO spaghetti dinners to raffle ticket sales, she will do anything for Saint George Church!

No one can say no to her!



Happy 60th Anniversary to Saint George Church!
May God grant her many years!
Congratulations to all the honorees!

Love, Darlene Haddad and Michael Haddad George, Donna, Theo, Alexandra and Katherine Conopeotis



CONGRATULATIONS



ŧο

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Cicero

on attaining 60 years of service to the body of Christ!

Let us pray that God continues to bless us with many more years of abundance for the future of our children. May God strengthen us and give us the courage to always stand with Him.

With Love in Christ,

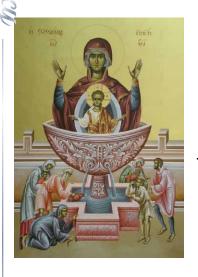
Dr. Anton and Mrs. Lena Fakhouri, Jiries, Myah, and Jacen



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WELCOMING

His Eminence
Metropolitan SABA
to our parish to celebrate the
60th Anniversary of our
Church!

Eli and Paula Haig and Family



MANSOUR, on behalf of your wife, children, and grandchildren, we are so proud to see you being recognized at this beautiful event. Honor is not what you receive, but honor is a reward for what you have given.

From singing in the choir for over 40 years, to being a member of The Order of Saint Ignatius for 30 years, and joining the Board of Trustees in 1996, your relentless passion, devotion, and contributions to the Church are unparalleled. Your influence as an esteemed honorary member of the Church is monumental, yet the impact you have had on your family is even more so. We are incredibly blessed and fortunate for the way you have honored us and paved the way for future generations to gloriously represent themselves, their families, and the Church. Today, we celebrate you as you should be celebrated every single day.

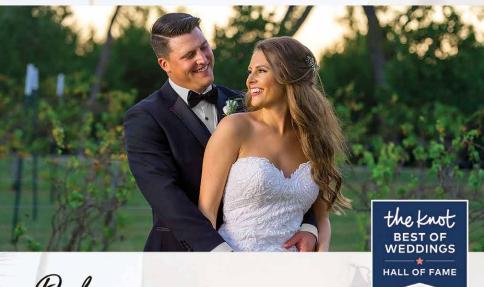




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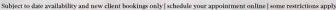
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- A Full Length Edited HD Wedding Film
- Social Media Highlight Video















Thank Gaul!



PROUD SPONSOR OF THE

BROTHER SYMEON MEMORIAL GARDEN





Thank Gau,

ELIAS AND MAGGIE AKKARI AND FAMILY

PROUD SPONSOR
OF THE

PARISH COUNCIL AND SPONSORS' DINNER

MAY GOD GRANT HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA MANY YEARS AS OUR SHEPHERD!





DR. SAMMY AND KAREN NAWAS AND FAMILY

WELCOMING

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA

ON HIS INAUGURAL VISIT TO SAINT GEORGE CHURCH, CICERO

PROUD SPONSOR

OF THE

CHICAGOLAND CLERGY AND DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE WELCOME LUNCHEON

MAY GOD GRANT HIM MANY YEARS AS OUR SHEPHERD!





Thank Gall!

AKRAM AND LIZA ZANAYED AND FAMILY



PROUD SPONSOR

OF THE



YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (YAF) DINNER

HOSTED BY THE SAINT GEORGE CHURCH YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (YAF)

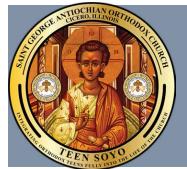


Thank Gau,

GEORGE AND DONNA CONOPEOTIS



PROUD SPONSOR
OF THE



STEWARDS'
LUNCHEON
WELCOMING THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND HIERARCHS

HOSTED BY THE SAINT GEORGE CHURCH TEEN SOYO FUTURE STEWARDS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE



Thank Gau!

SAINT GEORGE CHURCH, CICERO ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN (AW)

CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH YEAR OF SERVICE
TO THE ARCHDIOCESE



PROUD SPONSOR

OF THE



SAINT GEORGE CHURCH, CICERO ORGANIZATION OFFICERS AND LEADERS' LUNCHEON

"A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS" GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY!



Thank Gent!

J K TRAVEL AND TOURS JANET KANDO

Legacy

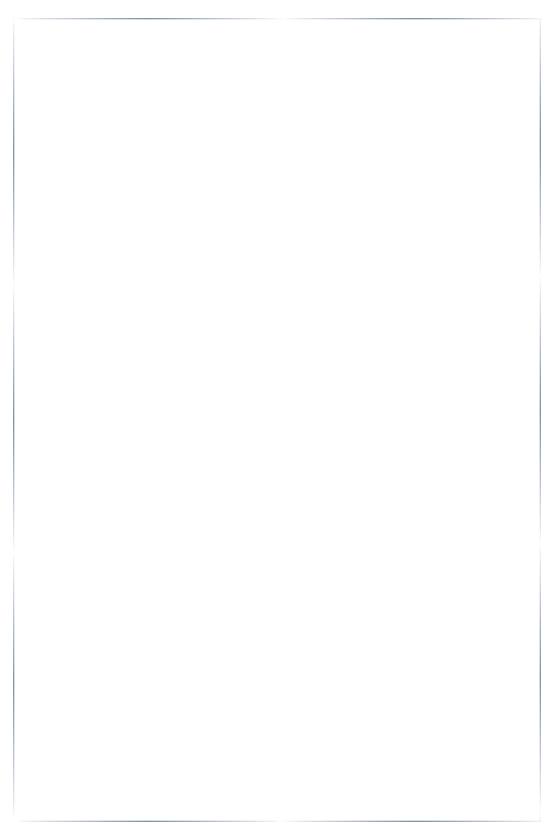
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HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY TO SAINT GEORGE CHURCH!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO GRANT THE PARISH OF SAINT GEORGE MANY YEARS!

George and Ibtisam Imreibe and Jamily



Congratulations on the 60th Anniversary of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church

As we remember our ancestors who started the Church, we also pray that our descendants will continue to grow the Saint George Church and to spread Orthodoxy in Chicago.

Naheel Rantisi, Norma Rantisi, and Mina Rantisi

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE PARISH OF Saint George ON THEIR Jubilee Celebration



"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

- 1 Corinthians 15:10

Raed and Reem Sweiss and Family



For the Good Health of Issa and Hanneh Nawas

In Memory of †Constantin and †Wafa Kari

"Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come. From Generation to Generation."

(Psalm 71:18)

CONGRATULATIONS ON 60 YEARS!

From Generation to Generation, we honor the Legacy of our parents' years of service to Saint George Church by passing down the torch to the next generation. May you and your children continue to build the Body of Christ here in Chicago!



With love your children and grandchildren,

Sammy, Karen, Michael, Alexander, Juliana and Caroline Manas



CONGRATULATIONS

BEST WISHES

For the beloved clergy and the faithful on the celebration of Saint George Church's Diamond Jubilee.



You have labored so hard in the vines of the Lord for His glory.

May He bless you, protect you, and guide you through your future endeavors to proclaim Orthodoxy on this continent and everywhere.

With all our love,

Dr. and Mrs. George Madanat and Family



Saint George Church, Cicero



May God Bless the work of the clergy and laity as you labor to serve the Orthodox faithful across the Chicagoland.

Thank you to Father Saba and the committee for all your hard work and welcoming the Board of Trustees to your celebration.

Welcome to Chicago, Metropolitan SABA!

In Christ,

Fawaz, To Ellen, Rose, Susan, To Ellen, and Patrick El Khoury



Battaglia Homes wishes SAINT GEORGE CHURCH a Happy 60th Anniversary!



Battaglia Homes

Design & Build



Happy 60th Anniversary Saint George Church

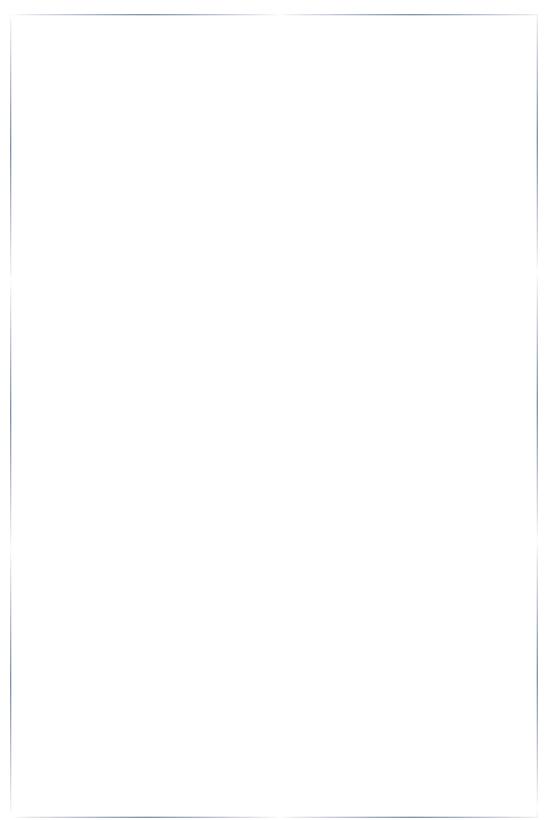
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Saint George Church



We love our second home and pray the next generation will continue in the same steps.

Mourice and Hanan



Mseih and Family L



In honor of our mother

NADIA ZANAYED



For her years of service to Saint George Church and for being an active member of the Ladies' Guild for many years!

Congratulations, Mom, on receiving the

SAINT GEORGE LEGACY MEDAL!



Happy 60th Anniversary to our beloved Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church!

Love Always,

Ronnie and Briana Zanayed Ramiz, Rita, Eli, and Mark Sweiss Wisdom_



CONGRATULATIONS



Our warmest congratulations go to the Saint George Parish and its Clergy on six decades of faith, fellowship, and community building!

We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to make this Church a place of love and worship, including our dad,

MICHAEL MUFARREH

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to keeping our faith alive!

CONGRATULATIONS

on this remarkable milestone, and may God continue to grant you many years!

With love and appreciation,

The Family of Wichael and Ida Wufarreh



Happy 60th Anniversary Saint George Church!



Love,

Mazen, Juwana, Alexandra, and Daniella Zanayed

congratulations

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church on your 60th anniversary!



We wish many blessings on all who celebrate this wonderful anniversary with us today.

Michael, Diane,

Matthew, Alyssa, and Kyle Moukheiber

CONGRATULATIONS also to our husband and father, Michael Moukheiber, on his many years of service to Saint George Church as a Sunday School Teacher, Parish Council Board Member, and Parish Council Chairman. The Church has truly inspired him throughout his life, and we are grateful how it has helped shape him into the loving son, husband, and father he has become.





Happy 60th Anniversary SAINT GEORGE CHURCH



Mitri and Nabeela Mraibie and Family



CONGRATULATIONS

Rudaina Swais

on over 40 years of service to the Church!

From Sunday School Teacher to President of the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, may we all follow in your loving footsteps serving Christ!

Love,

Luna, Laura, Dina





"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ~ Philippians 4:13





Congratulations to Saint George Church on 60 miraculous years!

Welcome your Eminence Metropolitan SABA. Axios!

Job well done, Fr. Fouad Saba, Fr. Gabriel Coronel, Dn. George Nassief, the Parish Council, Karen Nawas, and the Diamond Jubilee Committee, on these magnificent festivities.

Thanks to all clergy and laity whose sacrifice has laid the foundation for past, present, and future.

May God continue his blessings upon our beloved parish.

Earifeh, Adla, Joumana, and Rammy Eanayed

In memory of Issa Diab Zanayed, Fr. Anthony Gabriel, and all Saint George Church deceased

HAPPY 60¹

ANINIVERSARY

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church

—woodworking & Cabinetry—
TRIMAX INC.

TRIMAX INC.







Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Celebrating 60 Blessed years!

In Loving Memory of †NINA GHANAYEM



May her memory be eternal!

Remembering her dedication to her Faith, Church, and Family.

Love, Her husband, Ibrahim, her children, Alexander and Patrice, Maria and Rick, Nancy, Malik and Linda, and her grandchildren.

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Proverbs 31:31

CONGRATULATIONS

To our beloved Teta and Mother,

SAMAR RIHANI

Alf mabrook on your 25th Anniversary of serving Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church and for your recognition at the 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee with the Pastor's Certificate of Distinguished Service!

Your 25 years of service to the community is a witness to your commitment and love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ along with the entire Antiochian community in Chicago. Your love, dedication, and warmth helped weave together the community through every interaction, meeting, phone call, and email with the Church. God bless your ministry! On behalf of the entire community, we love you dearly and may God grant you many, many years inshallah!





Your dear husband Hani Rihani Omar, Lillian, Elias, Gabriella and Elena Rihani



In Loving Memory of †Fouad A. Kari

CONGRATULATIONS

Saint George Church on your 60th Anniversary!

May God grant you many years and
bless your future growth for generations to come.



"I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble."

Proverbs 4:11-12

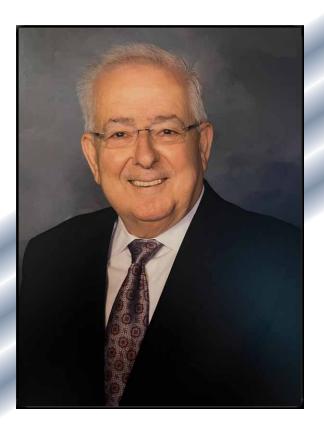
from

Salwa Kari and Family





In Loving Memory of †Khalil Hanna Zayed



"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

~ JOHN 11:25-26

Sumayya Zayed and Family



On August 29, 1936, Joanna L. Domko, our future mother, was born in the City of Chicago to Jerry and Lillian Domko.

Joanna was raised on the northwest side of the city, as a Lutheran Christian, of both Slovak and Polish heritage.

In 1957, after graduating from Saint Luke's Nursing

School on South Michigan Avenue, Joanna met George F.

Khoury our future father, a Syrian immigrant who was working as a blood bank technician, while obtaining an engineering degree. Dad worked as an engineer; our mother practiced her craft of being a registered nurse on and off for some 40 years.

In time, our mother learned to embrace an entirely new culture, while remaining faithful to her upbringing

and being introduced to Orthodoxy. Dad was mom's first introduction to people and institutions "Levantine." With that said, dad learned about Slavic culture and mom learned about Syrian culture, "an even exchange."

Our mother was eventually christened into the Orthodox faith in 1970 at Saint George Church, Oak Park. There on Humphrey Avenue, she would sing in the choir and teach Sunday School; an active participant in the life of Saint George Church. At our newer Church facility in Cicero, mom remained committed to the choir. Mom was also active in the Ladies' Guild in those early years.



George and Joanna have three children and were blessed with three grandchildren.

Our family thanks the Lord for giving us two wonderful parents and grandparents as examples of service and faith.



Congratulations Saint George Church and our community on celebrating 60 years of service.

May God continue to bless us!

Dr. Carlos, Marwa, Mai, Jude, and Zane Bechara



"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." — Ephesians 6:4

CONGRATULATIONS

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH Cicero

on your 60th Anniversary!

May God continue to bless the community of Saint George today and for every generation to come! We are blessed and grateful to be a part of this community!

Love,

Daoud, Hania, Demiana, and Nicolette Kahoush



In Honor of Over 50 Years of Service to the Church

George Youssef Homsy

A beloved, selfless husband, father, brother, and friend.

A reader, chanter, and choir director.

A dedicated musician and servant of the Church.







With appreciation for your dedication to the Church and our family,

Your wife, Mary Homsy, Your son, Joseph Homsy and his wife, Dr. Nicole Nimry, And the members of the Homsy, Haddad, Naggar, and Hindeleh families.

"It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever greatly blessed and all blameless, and the mother of our God. More Honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee."



May this 60th Anniversary come with the blessings of a new season that is spiritually uplifting for the Church and all its members.

Dr. Ibrahim and Mrs. Shirah Fakhouri and their children Lisa and George

In loving memory of

† Dr. Ibrahim Jiries Fakhouri

May his memory be eternal!

From, Dr. Anton and Lena Fakhouri and Family



Jawdat Yousef Rihani



12

FEB

1944

22 JULY 2023

Faith

"Whosoever believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." $_{John\,3:16}$

"In loving memory of Jawdat Rihani,
whose unwavering faith, kindness, dedication, generosity,
and love continue to guide and inspire us. His presence in our lives
was a blessing, and his memory will forever illuminate our hearts.

May his soul find eternal peace
in the embrace of the Lord."

Husband of Diana Yacoub Ayoub
Father of Julie and Zeid and his wife Megan Rihani
Jiddo of Yasmina and Sharif, and Olivia, Caroline, Mary and Emma
Brother of Ghazi, Dn. Abe, Hisham, Fr. Malek, and Dn. Saed

Menory Eternal



May God remember in His Heavenly Kingdom, the dedicated servant, +Najah Haddad, a recipient of the Legacy Medal this year.

May she rest in eternal peace and find comfort knowing she is deeply loved, truly appreciated, and dearly missed.

With all our love, The Haddad Family





CONGRATULATIONS MINA!





We are proud of you continuing Dad and Mom's Legacy of working for the Church and building the community of Saint George Church, which they helped found and gave many years to.

May God Grant you many years!

Your Sisters,

Naheel Rantisi and Norma Rantisi



The greatest rewards are received when one performs acts of kindness and works with a generous heart expecting nothing for their efforts!

May God Grant you many years!

With Love,

a Friend



May the Creator of All, Through His Grace, Grant to His Faithful Shepard
+HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
Strength of Spirit, Courage of Heart, Compassion of Spirit, Health of Body,
Length of Days. Amen

Welcome and May God send His Bounteous Blessings to all of the +Bishops of North America

CONGRATULATIONS!

Saint George Antiochian Church, Cicero, Illinois
On the occasion of celebrating the

60th Anniversary

Of the founding of the parish

With prayers and love, Elias and Barbara Hebeka



The Young Adult community welcomes His Eminence Metropolitan SABA Esper to Saint George Cicero!

Congratulations Saint George on your 60th Anniversary!

We are thankful for the many years of work and dedication of the past generation. The time is now to grow in Christ towards the future!

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

-Romans 8:28

Sarah Alamir Christina Ghanayem Nina Ghanayem David Habash Jeanette Habash Nathaniel Humphrey Michael Makdah Michael Massih Natalie Massih Dr. Daniel Mseih Michael Nawas Phillip Saba Faraj Sharstan Alexandra Zanayed

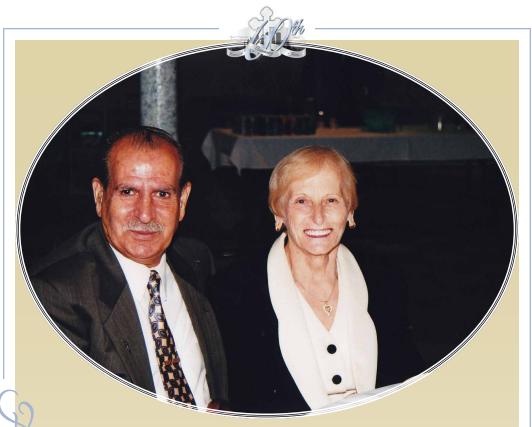
Amber Zayed



IHAIPIPY 60TH SAINT GEORGE CHURCH

Looking forward to a beautiful future!

Khaldeun J. Fakheury and Family



†Sami and **†Izabil** Imsih

- Two faithful servants -

- Two dedicated Orthodox Christians -

- Two committed members of Saint George Church -

- Two blessings in one -

On this occasion of the 60th Anniversary of our Church, we remember them.

May their memory be eternal!

Love,

The Massih Family Fohnny and Renata, Natalie, Ryan Sweiss, Sami, Marissa Zayed, and Michael



Only one life,Twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ Will Last.'
Never forget to live as you have been taught,
with the highest goals before you.



Many Years to our beloved Hierarch His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA

Congratulations to V. Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba and all the faithful of St. George on your 60th Anniversary!

Dan and Kathy Abraham Grand Rapids, MI



Most Holy Mother of God, Intercede with your Son and our God For us all.

Look down from heaven, O Lord, and protect this Vineyard your Right Hand has planted!

Best wishes from

Dr Thomas and Anna Kurian and Family





We welcome His Eminence
Metropolitan SABA
and all of our beloved hierarchs
to the Diocese of Toledo
& the Midwest,
and we send our love to
His Grace Bishop ANTHONY!

Congratulations to St. George Orthodox Church of Cicero, IL on the occasion of their 60th year anniversary! May God bless you with love and strength to continue in His service for His glory!

With love in Christ,
Fr. Mousa Haddad, Fr. Malek Rihani,
Fr. Danial Doss, Dn. Saed Rihani & the faithful
of St Mary Church of Palos Heights, IL





HAPPY 60 ANNIVERSARY

TO THE FAITHFUL OF

Saint George **Antiochian Orthodox** Church



Michael Kinyon

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Wishing SAINT GEORGE CHURCH

Many Blessings in all its Future Endeavors!

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY!



CHICAGO

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HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church











MEMORY ETERNAL

SH. +JANE NASSIEF

BELOVED WIFE,
MOTHER, NANA,
AND CHURCH
SCHOOL TEACHER!!

DN. GEORGE NASSIEF AND FAMILY



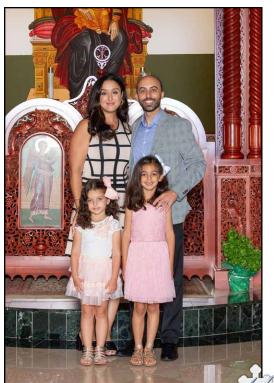


We are so proud of all you have accomplished in your 35 years of service to the Church & are honored that we get to call you Dad & Jiddo. May God grant you many years!

All our love, Michael, Lauren, Dalia, Aaron, Kairo, & Aven





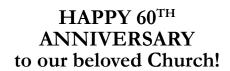


CONGRATULATIONS to Saint George Church on celebrating the Diamond Jubilee.

May God continue to bless the future of Saint George Church and its parish!

Victor, Tackie, Ava. and

Mia Finreibe



May God show us more blessings in the years to come!

Anthony, Huda, Matalie. and





CONGRATULATIONS

Saint George Family

Francis, Amal and Mirna Imseih

Sami, Amanda, Amal and Samantha Imseih

Suhail, Dima, Noor, Nadine, and Celine Qumri



HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Saint George Church

May God bless the next generation!

Dr. George, Samar, Sarah, Gabi, Christina, and Rafael Alamir



WELCOME

Metropolitan SABA

and

CONGRATS

to Saint George Church for 60 years!

We are grateful for the Church. God grant you many more years!

For the health of...

Johnny, Vera, Annelise, and Abe Kuttab



Happy 60th
Anniversary
Saint George Church!

Hanna, Tanya, Nabeel, Elisia, Elias, and Sofia Hinnawi





In Loving Memory of Our Parents

Yousef and Wardeh Rihani

Your love for each other, your love for your family, your love for the Church, and your commitment to your faith was a way of life that set an example for us to live by.

Ghazi, Asmahan, Kathy, and Lori Rihani



May God bless the community of St. George as they celebrate their Diamond Jubilee

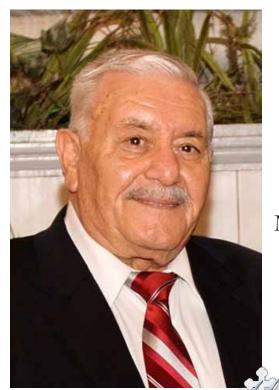


May God also bless all the honorees:

Archpriest Malek Rihani - Nuha Ayoub - Yasmin Haddad - Joanna Khoury - Nadia Zanayed Archdeacon Saed Rihani - Adel Alfakhori - Khamis Imsaih - Michael Moukheiber - Michael Mufarreh Mina Rantisi - Mansour Rayan - Samar Rihani - Rudaina Swais - Raed Sweiss

Your Sister Church,
The Basilica of St. Mary
Clergy and Parishioners





In Loving Memory +Jiries Haddad

May 6, 1943

October 8, 2012



The Antiochian Men officers, congratulate our beloved Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, in Cicero Illinois, on her 60th Anniversary!

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

— PSALM 133:1

1 3/1LW 1 33.1



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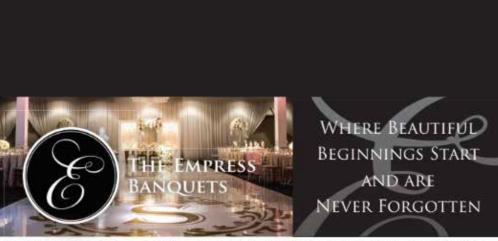
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CONGRATULATIONS to

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church on her 60th Anniversary!

May God continue to grace Chicago with blessings upon the Church.



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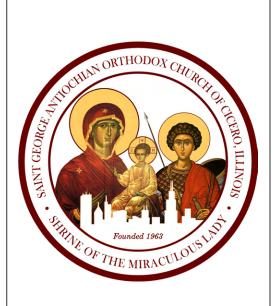
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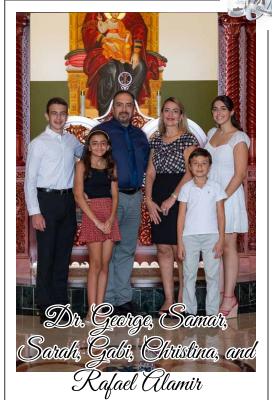
Saba







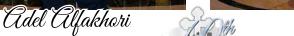












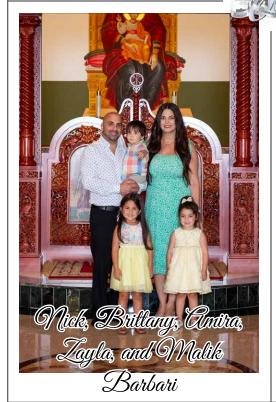








Barbari Zamand Christian Barbari











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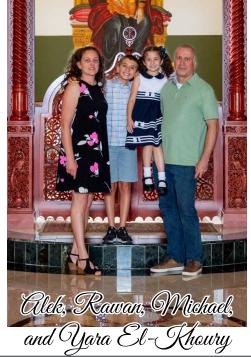






















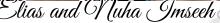








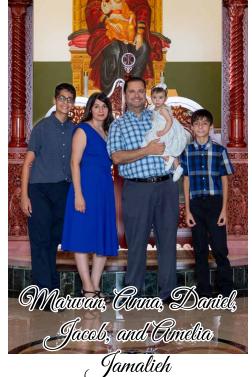






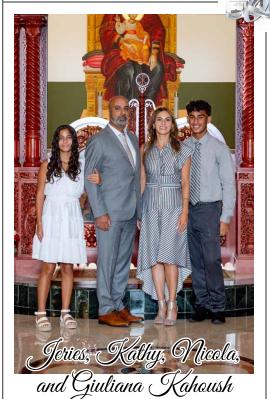
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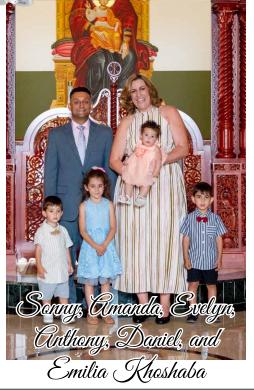










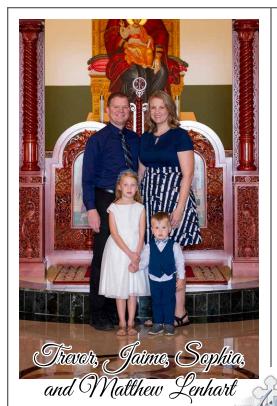














Luisi











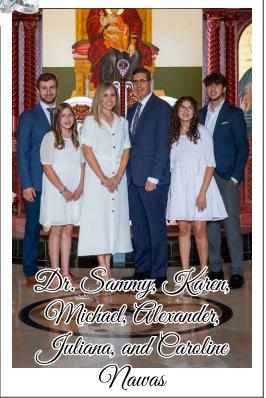














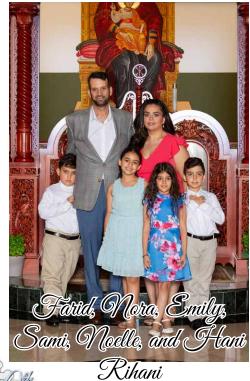




















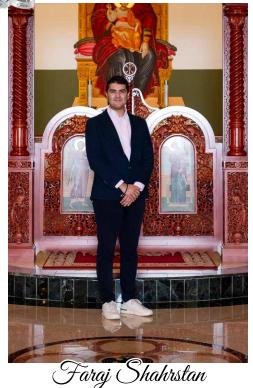


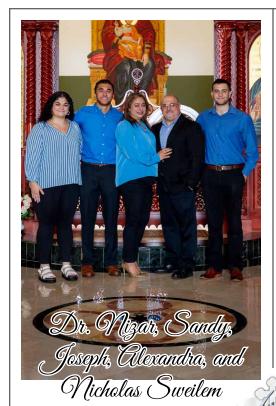














Huda Zanayed









Rajaei Qubrosi









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