

**SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26)  
[www.saintgeorgeakron.org](http://www.saintgeorgeakron.org)

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 / Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross**

**The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan Saba,**  
*Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of the  
Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of  
North America*  
**V. Rev. Fr. John Alassaf,  
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**Attached-** V. Rev. Fr. Basil Shaheen

**Deacon** - Dn. James Reale

**Sub-deacon** - Samer Zawahri

**Parish Ministries**

**Sunday School Directors** -

Julia Shaheen, Zaina Zawahri & Odeh Halaseh

**Choir Director** - Kim Shama Hanna

**Youth Director** - Bob Snyder

**Arabic Chanter** - Elias Elsoury

**Office Hours M-F 10 AM-3PM**

• **Matins @ 9:30 AM**

• **Divine Liturgy @ 10:30AM**

• **Live Stream @ 10:20 AM**

\* **Sunday School Starts  
@ 10:00 AM**

\* **Follow us on Instagram  
St. georgeakron.**

**The Communion Prayer:**

I believe, O Lord, and I confess, that thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly Thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Wherefore, I pray Thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine immaculate Mysteries, unto remission of my sins unto life everlasting. Amen. Of Thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief, will I confess Thee; Remember me; O Lord in Thy Kingdom. Neither unto judgment nor unto condemnation, be my partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

**Greeter** : Ethen & bethany Miller  
**Epistle Reader**: Mike Kormushoff

**Acolytes** Kyle C. Jonathon M. Jacob M. Henry  
K.Steven S.Janti J.Adam E. Anthony A.

## **HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY IS OFFERED BY:**

- St. George Parishioners for peace in the Middle East & all around the world
- Geri & Sherri Farris memory of Edmund & Pamala Farris, Henry & Ethel George, & Najeeb & Amelia Farris.
- Farah Family in memory of Issam Farah (One year), Trisagion following the Divine Liturgy
- Tom & Zaneta Reedy for the health of their family, children, & grandchildren
- Andrea Stedman & Bob Voytko
- Nidal & Wafaa Salameh for the health of their family & Hanna Salameh
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish Family
- Patrick & Sherry Vitone Family
- Atef & Teresa Haddad Family
- David Zuder for the health of Kh. Dolores Zuder

## **HOLY REMEMBRANCES ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH OF:**

Lydia & Rob & Flo Howell, Tina Steiger, Jim & Suzi Hanna, Rasmia Nameh, Anthony Sarino Wafigah, Monged Zawahri, Karol Haddad, Bob Boyce, Mary Lou Simon, Joyce Simon, Rosemary McLaughlin, Susan Yovichin, Micheline Debs, Dawn Shaheen, Michel Halasa, Sophia Massouh & Vincent Alexander.

## **QUIET PRAYER AT THE ALTAR FOR THE HEALTH OF:**

, Nahia Hagen, Mimi Hicks, Henri Kari, Ghada Abu-Daoud, Kyriaki & Elaine Carlis, Robert Kalail, Michel Sadie, Eugenie Karim, Jihan Albanna, Robert Duke, Atty. Eugene Elias, Jan Kattouf, Melinda Mccue, Lisa Dickens, Shirley Seese, Bud Drayer, Patricia Hanna, Natalie Maarouf, Nathan Stein, Rob Kaiser, Latifeh Tabanji, Delores Elias, Jim Hicks, Geri & Sherri Farris, Martha George, Fadia, Giovanni & Lorenzo Albanna, George Rufener, Wanda Hanna, , Elias & Rima Elsoury, Allie Elias Lovell, Cindi Shama, Yvette Rizk, Sanah Halasa-Durant, Habib & Regina Salloum, Dr. Nabil & May Manneh, Jim & Pam Hackim Workman, Alessia Voytkiv, Tony Debs, John & Mary Cradle, Fritz & Helen Gisewhite, Shaun & Kathy Curley, Emile Jabbour, Lincoln Hackim Jr .tina , Diane Elias, Hany Roumie, Samantha, Vi Carey, Dr. Zohrab & Donya Markarian, Todd Owen, Flo Howell, George & Georgette Zabaneh Family, Marlene Elzeer, Gladys Chirakos, Jim & Suzi Hanna, Ben & Erin, Jensen, Jemma, & Jenika Lohrum, Amal Kari, John & Karen Dodovich, Dave & Mary Pilversack, Monged , Zaina & Jordan Zawahri, Gina, & Nage Jabbour, Marge Azar, Samira & Jeries Kakish, Margaux Yerian, Christian Simon, Dr. Rick Esper & Family, Carl Massouh, Carl & Josephine Moore, Wagdi Anton, Mark, Jamalata & George Gaid, David Aramouni, Tom McLaughlin, Adnan & Lurice Halasa, Karen Yogmour, Dr. George, Penny Shaheen, Connie Kenny, Peter Stevens, Sarkess & Mirna & Sako Saba family, Elie & Debi Eid, Farouk & Fadia Yared. Mary Yousef, Hoda Jabbour, & Maryrose Yousef.

## **HOLY REMEMBRANCES ARE OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:**

Jehad Massis, Elias Touma, George Al- Dugum. Douglas Elwell, Raed Smairat, Fadi Debs, Kathy Velikoff, , Isaac Gaid &, Habib Kakish, Wilma Drayer & The Newly Departed, Audrey Samples

## **APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

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

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### **TROPARION OF ST. GEORGE**

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God for our soul's salvation

## **KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR**

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

### **A Big Thank You:**

**Atty. Dave & Cindy Esber family & Jim & Suzi Hanna Family,**  
for donating basil for the procession of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

**God Bless You All!**

**“Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master,  
and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection”**



### THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Amen.**

### THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday Before The Elevation Of The Cross)

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power." **Amen (Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee).**

53 "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you**. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has **eternal life**, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my **flesh is real** food and my **blood is real drink**. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **remains in me, and I in him**\* John 6: 53-56

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2024

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat. Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sun., Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUNDAY AFTER THE Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross</li> <li><b>The Procession of the Feast of Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> will take place following Divine Liturgy in this order:</li> <li><b>First:</b> the Candle and Cross, <b>Second: The</b> Sunday School, <b>Third:</b> the Clergy</li> <li><b>Sunday School Starts. &amp; blessing book bags</b></li> <li><b>One-year memorial service for Issam Farah</b></li> </ul> |
| Sat. Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>A Spiritual Retreat for Antiochian Women with Mother Gabriella</b><br><b>Check Page 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Wan, Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth &amp; Young Adult meeting @ 6 PM (with dinner)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### DONATIONS

#### Sunday School Fund

|       |                                                         |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| \$500 | L. Micheal & Dorothy Moskovis in memory of Wilma Drayer |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|

#### Building Fund

|       |                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| \$100 | Mousa & Raeda Kakish in memory of Raed Smirat |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|

|       |                                                    |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|
| \$150 | Zahi & Amanda Kakish for the Heath of their family |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|

#### Needy Family

|       |                                                       |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| \$200 | Malek & Fadia Albanna for the health of their family. |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|

|      |                                     |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| \$50 | Anna Marean in memory Willma Drayer |
|------|-------------------------------------|

|       |                                                    |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|
| \$300 | Tom & Zaneta Reedy for the health of their family. |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|

**Altar Boy Meeting** On Sun.22, Sept. 24th. Please, all boys who want to serve at the Altar stay at the church after you receive the blessing for a 20-minute meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy. Dn. James

## THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.



**The Elevation of the Holy Cross** is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on **September 14**. This feast is also referred to as the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast commemorates two events:

The finding of the Cross by Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) in 326 AD, is the place where Christ was crucified.

On the spot where the Cross was discovered, St. Helen had found a hitherto unknown flower of rare beauty and fragrance, which has been named "Vasiliko," or Basil, meaning the flower of royalty. Note that the word "Vasiliko" means "of the King," since the word "Basileus" in Greek means "King"; so, the plant Vasiliko, Basil, is tied to the Precious Cross of the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underneath the Basil, the Cross of Christ was found, but with it were the other two crosses used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which, one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life — thus the name the "Life-Giving" Cross, which gives life not only to that man but to each person who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His all-glorious three-day Resurrection.

When the true Cross was identified, it was lifted on high for all the people to see, who then continually sang *Kyrie eleison*, a practice which is still enacted at current celebrations of this feast. The recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified from the Persians.

The Persians had captured the True Cross as a prize of war when they sacked Jerusalem in 614 AD. It was recovered by the forces of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) in 627 AD by Heraclius. The Elevation took place on March 21, 630 AD, when Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem amidst great rejoicing, and together with Patriarch Zacharios (609-632), transferred the Cross of Christ with great solemnity into the temple of the Resurrection, joyously held up for veneration by the Christian faithful. **Amen**



## **Saturday Sept, 21st**

Antiochian Women Tea Time  
@10am-1pm With Mother Gabriella  
Open To All!

Vespers Service with Mother  
Gabriella @ 5:00PM



## **Sunday, Sept, 22nd**

10:30am: Divine Liturgy  
Speech by Mother Gabriella  
Parish Brunch with Mother Gabriella  
following the Divine Liturgy  
Sponsored by Antiochian Women

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CONTACT TO RESERVE

Midwest Diocese  
**FAMILY FALL**  
*Gathering*

**October 18-20, 2024**  
Clergy: October 17-19

HOSTED BY  
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**Registration Now Open!**

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\$50 - Adults / \$30 - Kids 12 & under

**Great Room Rates!**

1 King Bed Suite: \$109 / 2 Queen Beds Suite: \$119

## Keynote Speaker

**Deacon Gabriel Otte**

**"Stillness in the Storm: Orthodoxy on Conquering Anxiety".**



First, he created Freenome, a biotech company that develops blood tests for early detection of cancer. When he retired as CEO, he was ordained a deacon and serves at St. Stephen Orthodox Church in Campbell, CA. With a Masters of Theology from The Antiochian House of Studies in conjunction with the University of Balamand in Lebanon, Dn. Gabriel combines his calling as a clergyman, business adviser, and philanthropist.

# Highlight of Events

Welcoming our new Archiepiscopal Vicar, Archimandrite Jeremy Davis

## Clergy Synaxis

John Maddex - "Difficult Conversations"

- Complimentary Outing for Clergy Wives & kids to Frederik Meijer Gardens

## Family Fall Gathering

Speaker: Dn. Gabriel Otte - "Stillness in the Storm: Orthodoxy on Conquering Anxiety"

- Live Music & Pizza Party
- Activities for Teens & Youth
- Offsite Teen Service Project
- Midwest Diocese Information
- "Best Practice" Round Table Breakouts
- Cookout with Trivia & Game Night
- Young Adult Pickleball

## "Best Practice" Round Table Breakouts

**SHARE IDEAS FROM YOUR PARISH  
& LEARN FROM OTHERS IN THE MIDWEST!**

- Priest & Parish Council - Working Towards a Higher Partnership
- Motivating Parish Stewards in the 21st Century
- Surfing the Wave - Evangelism & Welcoming Visitors
- Works of Mercy - Connecting Parishioners to the Least of the Brethren
- Guiding Them In - Organizing a Catechesis Program for Your Parish
- Building a Men's Ministry



**Come & Join  
the FUN!**



## **God and Man, Part Two**

**By Metropolitan Saba**

Humans have created intellectual and religious movements that have depicted different images of God. However, if we closely examine any of their views of the human being, we can easily then understand their views of God.

When the image of the human being is distorted and his unique personality is negated, and he is not considered a unique being with a divine breath deserving respect, then the image of God will inevitably be distorted. If, for example, you do not respect human freedom, how can you believe that God respects freedom (even if man often denies God and fights Him in the name of this freedom)?

As Tagore said: "I love you, O God, because you have given me the freedom to deny you."

These reflections lead me to highlight the great responsibility that believers bear regarding their role in manifesting the image of God, lest they distort it. How many people have loved God because they saw believers manifesting, in their elevated behavior and conduct, a bright image of a loving God, to an indescribable degree?

How much of the opposite is true? An atheist once said to me: "If I were sure that God is as you tell me, I would become one of the first to believe in Him, and I would devote my life to telling others about Him." Unfortunately, he could not be freed from a distorted image of God engraved in his mind since his childhood.

The renowned theologian, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, considers that entering into the mystery of man and defining his unique personality is the first task of Christian theology, in general, and Orthodox theology, in particular, in the twenty-first century. The Church Fathers called it a "small universe," "a large universe," and a "mystery," but delving deeper, a "eucharistic being." Emphasizing these dimensions can provide basic answers to our contemporary world in crisis.

The word Eucharist is derived from the Greek which means thanksgiving. In the Divine Liturgy, the world is re-presented to God, not through God's natural gifts of wheat and grapes, but after man turns them into bread and wine. Man is the priest of God in this world, and his main role lies in tending creation and presenting it, with thanks, to the Creator. Isn't this what we chant, in every Divine Liturgy: "Thine own of Thine own, we offer unto Thee, in behalf of all (in some translations, in all ways), and for all?" Humanity has known various images of God. Different spiritual, religious, and philosophical movements in the world often depicted the image of God based on the image of man, which resulted in a faded, deficient and distorted image of God because the starting point was the creature and not the creator.

Christianity did the opposite. God revealed Himself to humans so they could know their value to Him and their role in creation. Movement in Christianity is from top to bottom, from heaven to earth. It is a divine providence, not a human endeavor.

This forms, in Orthodox Christianity, man's quest to constantly rise to the level that befits him as a creature with the breath of God in him. **Amen**