

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024
TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4; SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME;
AGAPITOS THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNAIDA IN PHRYGIA, AND HIS COMPANIONS

- *During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant the hymns in the following order:*

<p align="center">RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR</p>	<p align="center">أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الرابع</p>
<p>Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.</p>	<p>إِنَّ تَلْمِذَاتِ الرَّبِّ تَعَلَّمْنَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْكَرَزَةِ بِالْقِيَامَةِ الْبَهْجِ، وَطَرَحْنَ الْقَضَاءَ الْجَدِّيَّ، وَخَاطَبْنَ الرَّسُلَ مُفْتَخِرَاتٍ وَقَائِلَاتٍ: سُبِّحَ الْمَوْتُ وَقَامَ الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.</p>
<p>• <i>Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.</i></p>	
<p align="center">ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO</p>	<p align="center">قِنْدَاقٍ بِاللْحَنِ الثَّانِي</p>
<p>O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.</p>	<p>يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْثُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنَ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ الصَّارِحِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بَادِرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهُ، الْمُنْتَشِقَّةَ دَائِمًا بِمُكْرَمِيكَ.</p>
<p align="center">THE EPISTLE (For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)</p>	<p align="center">الرسالة (لالأحد السابع عشر بعد العنصرة)</p>
<p><i>O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.</i></p> <p>The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)</p> <p>Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will</p>	<p>مَا أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالِكَ يَا رَبُّ، كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ. فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كورِنْثُوسِ. يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَنْتُمْ هَيْكَلُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ، "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَسِيرُ فِيهِمْ بَيْنَهُمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا فَلِذَلِكَ اخْرُجُوا مِنْ بَيْنَهُمْ وَاعْتَزَلُوا"، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ، "وَلَا تَمَسُّوا نَجِسًا، فَأَقْبَلُكُمْ،</p>

<p>welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.</p>	<p>وَأَكُونُ لَكُمْ أَبًا، وَتَكُونُونَ لِي بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ،" يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ الْقَدِيرُ. وَإِذْ لَنَا هَذِهِ الْمَوَاعِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحِبَّاءُ، فَلْنُطَهِّرْ أَنْفُسَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أُنَاسِ الْجَسَدِ وَالرُّوحِ، وَنُكَمِّلِ الْقِدَاسَةَ بِمَخَافَةِ اللَّهِ.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE GOSPEL (For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">الإنجيل (للأحد السابع عشر من متى)</p>
<p>The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28) At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.</p>	<p>فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (١٥ : ٢١ - ٢٨) في ذلك الزَّمانِ، خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا. وَإِذَا بِامْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ قَدْ خَرَجَتْ مِنْ تِلْكَ التَّحُومِ وَصَرَخَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلَةً: "إِرْحَمْنِي يَا رَبُّ! يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، فَإِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا جَدًّا." فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ. فَذَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: "إِصْرِفْهَا فَإِنَّهَا تَصِيحُ فِي إِثْرِنَا". فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "لَمْ أُرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخِرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ." فَاتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ قَائِلَةً: "أَغْنِنِي يَا رَبُّ." فَأَجَابَ قَائِلًا: "لَيْسَ حَسَنًا أَنْ يُؤَخَذَ خُبْرُ الْبَنِينَ وَيُلْقَى لِلْكَلابِ." فَقَالَتْ: "نَعَمْ يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْكَلابَ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ الَّذِي يَسْقُطُ مِنْ مَوَائِدِ أَرْبَابِهَا." حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: "يَا امْرَأَةَ، عَظِيمٌ إِيمَانُكَ، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا أَرَيْتِ." فَشَفِيَتْ ابْنَتُهَا مِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ.</p>
<p>• <i>The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">THE DISMISSAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَتْم</p>
<p>Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-</p>	<p>الكاهن: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا الْحَقِيقِيُّ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمَّكَ الْكَلِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُحْيِي؛ وَبِطِلْبَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمُشْرِفِينَ الرُّسُلِ الْجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛</p>

<p>laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; <i>of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community</i>; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our father among the saints, Leo the Great, pope of Rome, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.</p>	<p>وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِّيسِينَ يُوحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْفَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ، وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشِّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِ (ة) (فُلَانِ، فُلَانَةَ) شَفِيعِ(ة) وَحَامِي(ة) هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِيِّ، يُوَاكِيمَ وَحَنَّةَ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِّيسِينَ لاون الْكَبِيرِ، أُسْقُفِ روميةِ، الَّذِي نُقِيمُ تَذْكَارَهُ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِّيسِيكَ، اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنْكَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.</p>
<p>Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.</p>	<p>الكَاهِنُ: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِّيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.</p>
<p>Choir: Amen.</p>	<p>الْجُوقُ: آمِينَ.</p>
<p><i>These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese</i> Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from <i>The Menaion, The Great Horologion, The Pentecostarion, The Octoechos, The Triodion-Holy Week, and The Psalter of the Seventy</i>, which are Copyright © Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts, and are used with permission. All rights reserved. These works may not be further reproduced, beyond printing out a single copy for personal non-commercial use, without the prior written authorization of Holy Transfiguration Monastery.</p>	

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
12	Aftim Michael Nassar	35
12	William Zarifeh	16
13	Mamie Aziz	60
13	William Khoury	55
13	Daniel Naim Assaf	20
14	Edward Charles Saba	47
15	Nabil Ibrahim	1
15	Paraskiva Agban	9
15	Ortance El-Hage	19
16	Alice (Lucy) Kerba	5
16	Georgette Fashho	11
16	Andrew Barakett	59
17	Nada Farah Kakish	7
17	Mary Nassif	58
18	Raouf Hinn	26
18	Violet Baliseh	16

- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Nassar, George, Nina, Sonia, George, Beshara, Irene, Nadia, Christine, Toni, George, Helena, Rami and Maien.

ETERNAL LIGHTS

- **Feb 18:** In loving memory of Petro Kardasopoulos from his family.
- **Feb 22:** In loving memory of Simon Younes from his family.
- **Feb 25:** In loving memory of Adel Younes from his family
- **Mar 10:** In loving memory of Yvonne Younes from her family
- **Mar 24:** In loving memory of Jiries and Nahil Irbib from Nadim Irbib and family.
- **Apr 21:** In loving memory of Yousef and Sumayah Musallam from Nadim Irbib and family.

MEMORIAL

- **40 days memorial service for Isis Zarifeh** offered by her children and their families. May her memory be eternal!
The coffee hour is offered today in loving memory of **Isis Zarifah** by her family.

PRISON MINISTRY

- On Saturday, March 30, 2024 a small group from St. George will be going to Toronto South Detention Centre to hand out Easter packages to the over 1,550 inmates. This will be our 19th annual visit to this maximum-security prison. Those who are interested in participating in this blessed ministry, please contact Diane Younes at 416-464-5908. Financial donations would be greatly appreciated.

Retreat at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in London, ON.

- Our sister Church Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church is hosting a retreat on **March 1st and 2nd, 2024** in London, ON. We are blessed to welcome **Mother Gabriella** from Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction, MI as our retreat speaker. She will be speaking on the topic of *Seeking the path of moderation in a polarized world*.

Information about the retreat, along with a link to register and a downloadable poster and schedule, is available on the Holy Transfiguration Church website: <https://www.holytransfiguration.ca/annual-retreat/>

We encourage the parishioners of St. George to participate in this retreat and to register online by **Monday, February 26**: <https://forms.gle/pfHDTyZTqwGeVxBA6>

CHURCH OFFICE

- **Anyone wishing to church a child, removal of crowns, have a memorial service, or would like Fr. George to give communion or visit their loved sick ones, should contact the church office ahead of time (905) 731-7210. In case of emergency, call Fr. Georges Mokbel (416) 725-2888**

MAINTAINING SILENCE DURING THE SERVICE

- **The congregation is expected to actively participate in worship. However, God's house is a place for reverence and worship, not loud and idle conversations (between each other or on cell phones). Please, turn off cell phones and any other devices when you are attending the Liturgy. If you have a situation that requires you to speak to other parishioners, please do that quietly outside the church or downstairs in the basement.**

ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS 2024

- **Please make sure to pick up your new envelopes at the back of the church as well as 2024 church calendar. Have a blessed year.**

BLESSING OF HOMES

- **Father Georges is visiting our parishioners and blessing their homes. If you like to have your home blessed, please call Fr. Georges 416-725-2888 or email the office**

info@stgeorgeantiochianchurch.org with your name and address. Father prefers that those who live in apartment's building to arrange for few apartments to be blessed together.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2023-2024

- **Please see the attached QR code for registration.**

TEEN SOYO

- Congratulations to our newly elected TEEN SOYO Board Members...

President: Peter Mokbel

VP: Peter Novratidis

Treasurer: Helena Mokbel

Secretary: Michael Ishac

Social Media: Dima Alzidan

Coordinators: Lucas El Bouri, Mark Moussa and Paul Petro Youth Advisors: Angela Ghazal and Fadi Freiga

If you are interested in joining our Teen SOYO group please contact our Youth Advisors.

Note: members must be between the ages of 13-19 years old.

Angela Ghazal: 416-720-0308

Fadi Freiga: 647-829-6136

FIRE ROUTE, HANDICAPPED PARKING, AND PARKING LINES

- Please make sure not to park on the side of the church or in front of the Fire hydrant, for this is a fire route. Also ensure not to park in the spots designated for handicapped parking. Anyone who parks and does not show a handicap permit on the window will be tagged.

- **Kindly Submit your Contribution through the Following Methods: Connect to the Church**

Website www.stgeorgeto.org Click on Donate

- **PayPal, or send your Cheque by Mail to: St. George Antiochian Church, 9116 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3M9**

Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.
(Psalm 112:5)

Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali): A Fruitful Seed in Antioch

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Metropolitan Boulos (1929-2008) served as metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Akkar and Dependencies across Lebanon and Syria.

If you love your neighbor less than you love yourself, then it would be difficult for you to write about a person like Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali), who lived Christ's second great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself," in its absolute evangelical sense, which is rarely duplicated throughout history. He embodied the phrase of the Bible that says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

What is remarkable about Metropolitan Boulos is his complete and constant self-forgetfulness for the sake of his fellow man. Requests made to this merciful metropolitan did not stop for a single moment throughout his life on earth. This means that he never once cared for himself because he was constantly preoccupied with the souls of others. Those who lived closely with him described his home, his room, his clothes, his food, and his poverty in a way that reminds us of the stories of unmercenary saints.

For those who claim that this kind of love is impossible in our self-centered age, Metropolitan Boulos, with his holy life, stands as living proof of the error of their claim, and as a witness to the extent of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's pure ones.

I was a high school freshman when I first heard of "Father" Boulos Bandali. Young people from Koura, North Lebanon, who were displaced with their families due to the war in Lebanon (1975–77), told us about a priest in Bishmizine, where people rush from their villages to participate in his liturgy. They described him as the angels are described. My friends and I thought that they were exaggerating. But when we met him for the first time in Latakia, Syria, while he was on a spiritual visit to encourage us to practice confession, we were amazed at what we saw. How does a person live with all this meekness? From where does he get all this tenderness? How does he possess this amount of kindness and a constant smile? In our young minds, we could only imagine him coming from the icons of our glorious Church.

We learned from him the art of listening, and when we grew up, we understood how much humility and self-denial listening requires. He would listen with sensitivity to the confessions of the youth and would try with all delicacy to direct us to the point that we sometimes felt like he was the one confessing, not us. I remember that, through his gentleness, he once made me ashamed of my sin and cause me to despise it very much, without reprimanding me with a single harsh word, although I deserved more than one harsh word at the time.

These encounters came within the framework of the Orthodox Youth Movement and its activities. I remember the way we used to rush to him when he arrived to receive his blessing! On the day we heard that he became Metropolitan of Akkar, we, the youth of Latakia, decided to go and congratulate him after his enthronement. At that time, most of us had experienced confession at least once with him. We met him in a very small village in Wadi al-Nasara, called Bhazina. He had been in the archdiocese for less than a month. He came to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in that village. We were shocked by how small and poor the church was, from the liturgical items to the chanting. We found him celebrating the Liturgy as if he were in heaven, not aware of the poverty around him. It took me years and great toil to learn how to serve in such poverty in my former archdiocese (Bosra, Houran and Jabal Al-Arab, Syria). I could not see beyond the material beauty to reach the sight of the "Beloved Son," Who transcends all beauty.

He shook our hands, one by one, after the Liturgy. Our presence brought him indescribable joy. He made us feel that we were his consolation, and some of us believed it!

We were later startled by something we learned about him. He stayed up at night writing letters to his spiritual children after his pastoral status as a bishop no longer permitted him to meet them in person as before. We learned that his bed was in a car, not in a bedroom. He spent most of his time sleeping being driven in a car from one region to another in his vast archdiocese (102 parishes) which extended across Lebanon and Syria.

Metropolitan Boulos planted in the Church a seed, without which the Church could not grow spiritually and physically. He gave great care to institutions, such as the Akkar Diocesan School, which he established and expanded. It is now one of the most successful schools in North Lebanon. But his focus on human beings was the

most important. Everything he had was for his fellow man. For him, there was nothing—no institution, no money, no endowment—unless it was for the sake of the neighbor, a service to the neighbor, and a way for the salvation of the neighbor.

The love he implanted, the kindness he distributed, the tenderness he gave—all are images of the compassionate face of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The God whom Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali) worshiped is the God of love, to Whom all should bow in reverence and veneration. May God help us through his intercessions.

المطران بولس زرع في أنطاكية المتروبوليت سابا (اسبر)

المتروبوليت بولس بندلي (١٩٢٩-٢٠٠٨) ميتربوليت أبرشية عكار وتوابعها.

إذا كنت تحبّ قريبك أقلّ ممّا تحبّ نفسك فمن الصعب أن تكتب عن إنسان مثل المطران بولس بندلي، الذي طبّق الوصية الثانية العظمى في الناموس "أحبب قريبك كنفسك" بمفهومها الإنجيلي المطلق الذي يتردد في القلائل عبر التاريخ، أولئك الذين عاشوا كلمة الإنجيل القائلة: "ما من حبّ أعظم من أن يبذل الإنسان نفسه فداء عن أحبائه".

ما يلفت في المطران بولس بندلي هو نسيان الذات التام والدائم في سبيل الإنسان الذي لم ينقطع سيل طلباته عن هذا المطران الرحيم لحظة واحدة طوال حياته على الأرض. هذا يعني أنّه لم يهتمّ مرّة لنفسه لأنّه كان مشغولاً بشكل دائم بنفوس الآخرين. الذين عايشوه عن قرب وصفوا معيشتهم، غرفته، ثيابه، طعامه، جيبه الفارغ دائماً أو بالأحرى المتقوب، بشكل يذكرنا بقصص القديسين الرحيمين أو العادمي الفضة.

للذين يقولون أن هذه المحبّة مستحيلة في عصرنا المتمركز على الذات يقف المطران بولس بسيرته العطرة برهاناً حياً على ضلال كلامهم، وشاهداً على مدى فعل الروح القدس في قلوب أصفياء الله الذين ينتسب إليهم.

كنت في صف الأول ثانوي عندما سمعت ب"الأب" بولس بندلي للمرة الأولى. شباب من منطقة الكورة، شمال لبنان، تهجّروا مع عائلاتهم بسبب حرب السنين اللبنانية (١٩٧٥-٧٧)، أخبرونا عن كاهن في قرية بشمّزين يهرع الناس من قراهم ليشاركوا في قدّاسه. وصفوه لنا كما توصف الملائكة. ممّا دفعني وبعض رفاقي للاعتقاد بأنّهم يضحّمون الأمر بشكل مفرط. لكننا عندما

التقيناه للمرّة الأولى في مدينة اللاذقية، وكان في زيارة روحية بهدف تشجيعنا على ممارسة الاعتراف، دُهشنا ممّا رأينا. كيف يعيش إنسان كلّ هذه الوداعة؟ من أين يجلب كلّ هذه الرقة؟ كيف يحوز اللطف الجمّ والابتسامة الدائمة؟ في أذهاننا اليافعة لم نتصوّره إلّا آتياً من أيقونات كنيسةنا البهيّة.

تعلّمنا منه فن الإصغاء، وعندما كبرنا فهمنا كم يحتاج الإصغاء إلى تواضع وإنكار ذات. كان يسمع، برهافة، اعتراف الشبيبة، ويحاول بكلّ رقة أن يوجّهنا حتّى كنّا نشعر أحياناً بأنّه هو المعترف لا نحن. أذكر أنّه جعلني مرّة، برقته، أخجل من خطيئتي وأمقتها جدّاً، من دون أن يوبّخني بكلمة قاسية واحدة، وكنت أستحقّ أكثر من كلمة قاسية آنذاك.

ثمّ تتالت اللقاءات في إطار حركة الشبيبة الأرثوذكسيّة ونشاطاتها الشبابيّة. كيف كنّا نسارع إليه حينما يظهر لنحصل على بركته. إلى يوم سمعنا أنّه صار مطراناً على عكار. قرّرنا، نحن شبيبة اللاذقية، أن نذهب لنبارك له بعد التنصيب. ومعظمنا آنذاك كان قد اختبر الاعتراف ولو مرّة واحدة على يديه. لاقيناه في قرية صغيرة جدّاً من وادي النصارى اسمها "بحزينا". لم يكن له شهر في الأبرشيّة، جاء ليقوم القدّاس الإلهي في تلك القرية التي صدمتنا كنيسةنا بصغرها وفقر الخدمة الليتورجية فيها؛ بدءاً بالأدوات الكنسيّة وصولاً إلى الترتيل. وجدناه يقيم القدّاس وكأنّه في السماء، لا يرى الفقر الذي حوالبه. هذا لم أتعلّمه أنا في أبرشيّتي (حوران) إلّا بصعوبة شاقّة وبعد سنوات. ومع ذلك لم أبلغ تجاوز الجمال البيزنطي لأصل إلى رؤيا الحبيب الإلهي التي تُعني عن كلّ جمال.

صافحنا واحداً واحداً بعد القدّاس وكان فرحه لا يوصف بحضورنا، وأشعرنا أنّنا كنّا تعزيتته، وللمفارقة بعضنا صدّق ذلك!

أذهلنا فيما بعد شيء عرفناه فيه. سهره في الليل على كتابة رسائل لأولاده الروحيين الذين لم يعد يسمح له وضعه الرعائي كمطران أن يلتقي بهم شخصياً كما كان في السابق. وقتها عرفنا أنّ فراشه السيارة وليس غرفة نوم. فأكثر وقت نومه كان يقضيه أثناء تنقله بالسيارة من منطقة إلى أخرى، في أبرشيته الواسعة (١٠٠٢ رعية)، والممتدة بين لبنان وسوريا.

إنسان كالمطران بولس بندلي زرع في الكنيسة نَفْساً روحياً إنسانياً لا تكون الكنيسة كنيسة يسوع المسيح من دونه. اهتمّ أن تكون عنده مؤسسات، ومدرسة عِگار الأبرشيّة التي أسّسها ووسّعها من أنجح مدارس منطقة شمال لبنان. ولكن تركيزه على الإنسان هو الأهمّ. كلّ شيء عنده للإنسان. ما من شيء، ما من مؤسسة، ما من مال، ما من وقف،... إلا من أجل القريب، وخدمة للقريب، وسبيلاً إلى خلاص هذا القريب.

الحبّ الذي زرعه. اللطف الذي ورّعه. الحنان الذي أعطاه. كلّه صورة عن وجه يسوع المتحنّن. يسوع الراعي الصالح. إله بولس بندلي لا يمكن إلا أن يُحَبّ ويُحنى الرأس إجلالاً وتوقيراً له. نفعنا الله بصلاته المسموعة عند الربّ.

Dear Camp Transfiguration Families of St. George,

As you all are aware, the coach transportation to Camp T is not included in the children's camp costs. Each child must pay their own way to get to Quebec. In 2023, the cost for transportation was over \$15,000 and thank God, it was fully covered from funds raised through our annual Luncheon and Raffle as well as generous donations of parishioners.

This year, our annual Luncheon will be held on Sunday March 3rd at St George gymnasium at 1:00pm. The cost is \$30/adult and \$25/child ages 12 and under. (buffet lunch, dessert, coffee and drinks)

We will be selling tickets in the church basement after Liturgy starting this Sunday January 28, 2024.

You can also purchase tickets by contacting:

Reem Shami 416305684

Anita Novratidis 6473902955

Sana Besharat 4169386151

Lina Rizzik-Shnoudeh 6478012081

Tickets will NOT be available at the door.

We are also asking for your generous help in donations of gifts for the Raffle prizes. Some ideas, but not limited to, Apple AirPods, gift cards, small appliances or electronics. (brand new, not used please)

Individuals or businesses will receive a tax receipt for monetary donations.

We are counting on your support and looking forward to having yet another successful luncheon and raffle.

Best Wishes,

Camp T Bus Committee

St. George AOC

Services at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.
Month: February 2024

Date	Time	Service
1st Week		
Thursday February 1 st Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers with Litia/Artoklasia
	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy
Saturday February 3 rd	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday February 4 th 15th Sunday of Luke	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
2nd Week		
Monday February 5 th Ilyan of Homs & Photius the Great	6:00 pm	Festal Orthros
	7:00 pm	Divine Liturgy
Saturday February 10 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday February 11 th 16th Sunday of Matthew, Theodora the Empress	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
3rd Week		
Wednesday February 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Saturday February 17 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday February 18 th Sunday of the Canaanite	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
4th Week		
Thursday February 22 nd Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna	6:00 p.m.	Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy
Saturday February 24 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday February 25 th Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Triodion Begins Today	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
5th Week		
Wednesday February 28 th Righteous John Cassian the Confessor	6:00 p.m.	Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy

Activities at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.
Month: February 2024

Date	Time	Activity	Location
1st Week			
Thursday 1 st	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday 2 nd	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
	8:30 – 9:00 pm	“Know your Church” for Teens	Gathering Room at the Centre
Sunday 4 th	After Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
2nd Week			
Tuesday 6 th	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Bi-weekly Catechism Class	Church Basement
Thursday 8 th	10:30 – 2:00 pm	Homeschooling Group	Church Basement
	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday 9 th	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	8:00 – 11:30 pm	Family Fun Night	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday 10 th	6:00 – 8:00 pm	YAM Bible Study	Church Basement
Sunday 11 th	After Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
3rd Week			
Thursday 15 th	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday 16 th	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
	8:30 – 9:00 pm	“Know your Church” for Teens	Gathering Room at the Centre
Sunday 18 th	After Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
4th Week			
Tuesday 20 th	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Bi-weekly Catechism Class	Church Basement
Thursday 22 nd	10:30 – 2:00 pm	Homeschooling Group	Church Basement
	8:30 – 11 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday 23 rd	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
	8:30 – 11 pm	Cheese & Wine Ladies Only Get Together	Church Basement
Saturday 24 th	6:00 – 8:00 pm	YAM Bible Study	Church Basement
Sunday 25 th	After Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
5th Week			
Thursday 29 th	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre

2024 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

JULY 4-7, 2024

MAIN EVENTS

BOAT CRUISE

*Enjoy an evening sail on the waters of the
St. Lawrence River!*

BANQUET

*Reserve your ticket for a great dinner
& fun time on Saturday evening.*

AWARDS BRUNCH

*Be sure to book your spot to help celebrate
the accomplishments of our children & youth!*



DEADLINES

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE
JUNE 4, 2024

VENDOR DEADLINE
MAY 1, 2024

SOUVENIR JOURNAL DEADLINE
MAY 15, 2024

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE
MAY 15, 2024

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JUNE 4, 2024

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEACTIVATION
JUNE 25, 2024

CREATIVE FESTIVALS DEADLINE
APRIL 1, 2024

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JUNE 15, 2024

BIBLE BOWL REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JUNE 15, 2024

HÔTEL OMNI
mont-royal | montréal
1050 SHERBROOKE STREET WEST,
MONTREAL QUEBEC H3A-2R6
PHONE: (514) 284-1110

OTTAWAPLC.ORG



Warm Hands, Warm Hearts

During this cold winter, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church hopes to pack 350 Winter care packages (incl. Gloves, hat, socks & a snack) for distribution to those in need through St. John the Compassionate Mission.

Please support this effort by making a donation to St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church and writing on your e-transfer, cheque or donation envelope “Warm Hands, Warm Hearts”.



Orthodox Retreat

Seeking the path of moderation
in a polarized world

- Family-friendly program
- Food drive collection

SPEAKER

Mother Gabriella
Abbess of
Holy Dormition
Monastery, Rives
Junction, MI

Mar
1-2
2024

	Adults	Students & Teens	Children (12 and under)
Friday, March 1 st	\$ 15	\$ 10	Free
Saturday, March 2 nd	\$ 25	\$ 15	Free
Total	\$ 40	\$ 25	Free
Weekend rate for families with teen-aged children: \$ 100			
No one will be denied entry if they can't afford to register			



Register online
by Feb. 25

ANCIENT FAITH
TODAY

The Orthodox Deaconess: Examining the Call for Restoration

1/30 — 9 PM ET / 8 PM CT

L I V E





CHEESE & WINE GET TOGETHER

Please come and join us

FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY @ 8:30

LOCATION: CHURCH BASEMENT

\$10 per person

LADIES ONLY GET TOGETHER

(Men and children can feel free to go to the center while the ladies are having a glass of wine)

RSVP TO: Rita Dahdaly 416-565-6565

Denise Bou-Faycal 416-524-7698