

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
21	Mary Kabi	43
21	Raefe Ibrahim	22
21	Linda Choueri	15
22	Linda Khoury	30
22	Najla Kort	27
23	Evelyn Chamandy	18
25	Hoda Haddad	6
25	James Hauraney	56
25	Najla Beidas	43
25	Helen Anki	26
26	Hannah Ansara	51
27	Abousmra Hauraney	57

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **Oct 4:** In loving memory of **Munir Muasher** from his family
- **Oct 18:** In loving memory of **Yvonne Younes** from her family
- **Oct 25:** in loving memory of **Mitri Samaan** from Nabil Samaan & family.

- **40 days memorial for Gallal Zatouneh** offered by his siblings and their families. May his memory be eternal.

- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Isabelle, Nassar, Valentine, George, Nina, Sonia, George, Elizabeth, Beshara and Toni. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.

- **Ushers for Sunday, Sep 27:** Gaby Stavro, Colette El-Hajj, Monir Ayad, and Riad Touma

- **Vespers:** Saturday, September 26 at 5 pm.

- **On October 4, 2020, from 2 pm to 3 pm, the annual LIFE CHAIN** event will take place in front of the church. As Orthodox Christians, our Church opposes Abortion as a form of Birth Control. Signs will be available or make your own. For more information email Ted.alexopoulos@rogers.com

- **Luncheon:** Today, after the service we will be having a Cold cut sandwiches. We wish to thank Konstantin & Tanya Kalvatchev and their family for sponsoring this lunch.

- **Sunday School registration** will start this Sunday **online**. First day of Sunday school starts September 13th on line. Please, check your emails. For any further assistance contact Amanda Qaish at orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com.

- **YAM zoom meeting with Fr. Ted Pulcini on Thursday October 8th at 7:30 PM.**

- **General Assembly:** There will be an Annual Meeting of the voting membership of St. George on September 27th of this month at 7 PM at the church. Please, see the constitution of St. George for what constitute a voting member, and non-voting membership. Thanks
- **MASKS ARE STILL MANDATORY INSIDE THE CHURCH. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- **Please, don't call the office to reserve you seat for Sunday Liturgy, but go to Eventbrite to make your reservation. Thanks**
- **Church Website has been updated with sign up info using the EVENTBRITE Application for each Sunday's Liturgy. The church website is [www.https://www.stgeorgeto.org/](https://www.stgeorgeto.org/). You MUST REGISTER to attend liturgy as we still have to abide by the 30% capacity as per government guidelines. You can also cancel your attendance using the application if you are unable to attend after booking your spots. Thank you... For any inquiries or help using EVENTBRITE, please call Colette at 416-558-8665.**

Obedience Despite Disappointment: Homily for the First Sunday of Luke in the Orthodox Church

September 24, 2016 · [Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)



Luke 5:1-11

We have all felt at some point like the disciples did when Jesus Christ found them washing their nets. They had fished all night and caught nothing. Things had not turned out as they had hoped, and they were disappointed and frustrated to the point of giving up. We have all been right there with them many times. But then the Lord told them to get back to work and let down their net. They did so and caught so many fish that their net was breaking and their boats began to sink. Just imagine what a surprise that was for them. They were all amazed and St. Peter fell down before Christ and said, “Depart from

me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” But the Lord said, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” Then the disciples left behind their boats and nets and followed Christ as His disciples.

That day probably began like any other day. The fishermen were busy with their work and who knows whether they expected anything out of the ordinary to occur. It was just another day with the same old routine and the same responsibilities and worries. But then the Lord blessed them and they saw that their work was not simply about fish, but about bringing people into the eternal life of the Kingdom of God.

Surely, the disciples knew that they could not take credit for such a large haul of fish. And there was no way that they could become fishers of men simply by their own power. We are made of the dust of the earth, enlivened by the breath of God. We are just flesh and blood. We cannot make fish swim into our nets or even solve many of the small problems we encounter every day. Much less can we give anyone eternal life.

The good news of the gospel, however, is that our Lord is able to bless and transform our humble work, the difficult situations we face, and all the struggles of our lives. No matter what we are doing, no matter how well or poorly it seems to be going, no matter how frustrated we may be, Christ is with us, inviting and empowering us to make the same old frustrating and boring routine into a ministry of the Kingdom, even when we cannot imagine how that could possibly be the case.

He called the disciples to a very special ministry in the founding of the Church; they had to leave their old occupations and serve the Lord full-time as evangelists, apostles, and bishops. Some continue to be called to serve in that way. But most of us will remain right where we are, spending each day in an office, a shop, a classroom, our homes, or another similar place. We may be tempted to think that what we do has no spiritual significance, that we are somehow second or third-class in our service of the Kingdom because we remain in the same old world. But that would be a great error, for all work is holy because it provides opportunities to be good stewards of God’s creation and to offer our lives and the fruits of our labor to the Lord for blessing and fulfillment.

Our work, our education, and our daily grind of whatever kind can be very difficult and frustrating, but He calls us to bear our crosses and learn patience through our struggles and problems. In response to disappointments and difficulties, we have opportunities to

grow in humility and trust. That is what Zacharias and Elizabeth did as a faithful Jewish couple who had not been blessed with children. Like the disciples, their nets were empty and they had given up hope for children, an especially painful situation for Jews who had a role to play in continuing the family line of Abraham that God had promised to bless in the Old Testament. Of course, the story of the Hebrew people began with Abraham and Sarah, another elderly couple without children, whose frustration and sorrow was overcome by God's promise to bless them and their descendants. They could take no credit for this blessing and neither could the parents of John the Baptist. And even though Zacharias responded to the message of the Archangel Gabriel with doubt, he and Elizabeth were still blessed beyond their expectations. God always remains faithful to His promises, even though we are often not faithful to ours.

Their life was not easy, however, for Zacharias would be martyred when the wicked King Herod murdered the young boys of Bethlehem. Elizabeth died forty days later, and John grew up in the wilderness as an ascetic prophet who would eventually lose his head for criticizing the immorality of the royal family. But God worked through these painful circumstances to prepare the way for the ministry of Jesus Christ, to extend His promises to Abraham to all who have faith in the Savior.

Do you see what these stories have in common? Barren elderly people have babies. Fisherman who have caught nothing suddenly find that their nets are breaking and their boats sinking because of their large haul. And worn-out, discouraged people like you and me grow in patience, humility, and selflessness by enduring our daily disappointments, worries, fears, and aches and pains. At times, we may feel that we are accomplishing nothing and be tempted to think that there is no point at all to what we do all day or maybe even to what we have done for years. But that would be truly a temptation, for the Lord has promised never to abandon us, to be with us always, and we know His power most when we have no doubt about our own weakness. If we are offering our lives to Him as best we can, we can trust in His blessing—even if we cannot figure out how He could possibly be at work in our present situation.

What is failure and frustration in our eyes may present a unique opportunity for us to grow into the people God wants us to be, to prepare us for a role we cannot yet imagine. He used the childlessness of Zacharias and Elizabeth to prepare the way for Christ. He used the frustration of the fisherman to open their hearts to the new life of discipleship. And in ways that we probably do not yet have the eyes to see, He calls us to use our

present circumstances as an opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and love and to better serve Him and our neighbors.

Contrary to what our culture teaches, our daily occupations are not simply about us. They are forms of service through which we transform God's good creation for His glory. We do not do that alone, for we journey together toward a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus Christ's ministry of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, and proclaiming good news to the poor shows that His salvation concerns the real-life challenges that people continue to face in the world as we know it. He showed God's love for the hated Gentiles and Samaritans, for people who had fallen into great sin and were shunned by respectable people, for the sick, blind, and lame. In His Body, the Church, all peoples and nations are reconciled and united in the life of the Kingdom.

Whether we see it or not, our routine tasks and challenges provide an opportunity to play our unique role in bringing His salvation to the world. Everything that we do and say may become a sign of God's blessing. We all have the opportunity to forgive those who wrong us; to work toward reconciliation with those from whom we have become estranged; to refuse to treat people poorly because of some trivial human difference; and not to let greed, pride, or any passion get in the way of treating others as we ourselves want to be treated. Of course, our work must support us financially, but there is a difference between meeting our legitimate needs and selfishly worshipping comfort, convenience, and commercialism or obsessively making any form of worldly success our false god. Ultimately, our work is not about us, but about playing our small part in fulfilling God's gracious purposes for His creation. And when our disappointments in it reveal our own brokenness, we are in the position to call out to the Lord in true humility.

Like Abraham and Sarah, Zacharias and Elizabeth, and John the Baptist, our calling is to use the challenges, blessings, and painful struggles of our daily lives to grow in holiness as we play our role in making this world an icon of God's salvation. That is how we may all become fishers of men. So even if we feel like we have fished all night and caught nothing, we must let down our nets again in obedience to Christ's command. He alone brings life even from the tomb and turns apparent failure into glorious victory. He alone works even through our more difficult challenges to bless us. So we must not fall into despair or fear, but instead trust that God is with us and at work in our lives, especially when we obey His command to put down our nets just one more time.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
TONE 7 / EOTHINON 5; SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

MARTYR KALLISTRATOS AND THE 49 MARTYRS WITH HIM; APOSTLES ARISTARCHOS, ZENON AND MARK OF THE SEVENTY; NEW-MARTYR AQUILINA OF THESSALONICA; VENERABLE IGNATIUS, ABBOT IN ASIA MINOR; VENERABLE SAVVATIUS OF SOLOVKY

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

الشماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّةِ بُولُسَ وَالْمِطْرَانِ
يُوْحَنَّا وَفَكَ أَسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمِينَ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ
نَطْلُبُ.

- *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 apolytikia in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

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

حَطَمْتَ بِصَلِيبِكَ الْمَوْتَ، وَفَتَحْتَ لِلصِّ الْفِرْدَوْسَ،
وَحَوَّلْتَ نَوْحَ حَامِلَاتِ الطَّيِّبِ، وَأَمَرْتَ رُسُلَكَ أَنْ يَكْرِزُوا،
بَأَنَّكَ قَدْ قُمْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ
الْعُظْمَى.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

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.

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ الْغَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى
الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تُغْرِضِي عَنْ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا
نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحَةٌ،
نَحْنُ الصَّارِحِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بَادِرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ
وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِماً
بِمَكْرَمِيكَ.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

*Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the
Lord honor and glory*

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to
the Corinthians. (6:1-10)**

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لَشَعْبِهِ.

قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْداً وَكِرَامَةً
فَصَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى
أَهْلِ كورِنْثُوسَ.

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

يَا إِخْوَتَهُ، بِمَا أَنَا مُعَاوِنُونَ، نَطْلُبُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَقْبَلُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ فِي الْبَاطِلِ * لِأَنَّهُ يَقُولُ "إِنِّي فِي وَقْتٍ مَقْبُولٍ اسْتَجَبْتُ لَكَ، وَفِي يَوْمٍ خَلَاصٍ أَعْنَتُكَ". فَهُوَذَا الْآنَ وَقْتُ مَقْبُولٍ. هُوَذَا الْآنَ يَوْمُ خَلَاصٍ * وَلَسْنَا نَأْتِي بِمَعْتَرَةٍ فِي شَيْءٍ لِنَلَّا يَلْحَقَ الْخِدْمَةَ عَيْبٌ * بَلْ نُظْهِرُ، فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، أَنْفُسَنَا كَخَدَامِ اللَّهِ، فِي صَبْرٍ كَثِيرٍ، فِي شِدَائِدٍ، فِي ضَرُورَاتٍ، فِي ضَيْقَاتٍ * فِي جَلَدَاتٍ، فِي سُجُونٍ، فِي اضْطِرَابَاتٍ، فِي أَتْعَابٍ، فِي أَسْهَارٍ، فِي أَصْوَامٍ * فِي طَهَارَةٍ، فِي مَعْرِفَةٍ، فِي طَوْلِ أَنَاةٍ، فِي رَفْقٍ، فِي الرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ، فِي مَحَبَّةٍ بِلَا رِيَاءٍ * فِي كَلِمَةٍ الْحَقِّ، فِي قُوَّةِ اللَّهِ، بِأَسْلِحَةِ الْبِرِّ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الْيَسَارِ * بِمَجْدٍ وَهَوَانٍ، بِسُوءِ صِيَتٍ وَحُسْنِهِ * كَأَنَّا مُضِلُّونَ وَنَحْنُ صَادِقُونَ، كَأَنَّا مَجْهُولُونَ وَنَحْنُ مَعْرُوفُونَ، كَأَنَّا مَائِثُونَ وَهَذَا نَحْنُ أَحْيَاءُ، كَأَنَّا مُؤَدَّبُونَ وَلَا نُقْتَلُ * كَأَنَّا حَزَانِي وَنَحْنُ دَائِمًا فَرِحُونَ، كَأَنَّا فَقْرَاءُ وَنَحْنُ نُغْنِي كَثِيرِينَ، كَأَنَّا لَا شَيْءَ لَنَا وَنَحْنُ نَمْلِكُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ.

THE GOSPEL
(For the First Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and

**فَصَلِّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ
وَالْتَلْمِذِ الطَّاهِرِ.**

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ وَاقِفٌ عِنْدَ بُحَيْرَةِ جَنَيْسَارَتِ، رَأَى سَفِينَتَيْنِ وَاقِفَتَيْنِ عِنْدَ شَاطِئِ الْبَحَيْرَةِ، وَقَدْ انْحَدَرَ مِنْهُمَا الصِّيَادُونَ يَغْسِلُونَ الشِّبَاكَ * فَدَخَلَ إِحْدَى السَّفِينَتَيْنِ، وَكَانَتْ لِسِمْعَانَ، وَسَأَلَهُ أَنْ يَتْبَاعَهُ قَلِيلًا عَنِ الْبَرِّ، وَجَلَسَ يُعَلِّمُ الْجُمُوعَ مِنَ السَّفِينَةِ * وَلَمَّا فَرَغَ مِنَ الْكَلَامِ، قَالَ لِسِمْعَانَ: "تَقَدَّمْ إِلَى الْعُمُقِ وَالْقُوا شِبَاكَكُمْ لِلصَّيْدِ" * فَأَجَابَ سِمْعَانُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، إِنَّا قَدْ تَعَبْنَا اللَّيْلَ كُلَّهُ وَلَمْ نُصِبْ شَيْئًا، وَلَكِنْ بِكَلِمَتِكَ أَقْبِي

as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

الشبكة* فَلَمَّا فَعَلُوا ذَلِكَ، اخْتَازُوا مِنْ السَّمَكِ شَيْئًا كَثِيرًا حَتَّى تَحْرَقَتْ شَبَكَتُهُمْ* فَأَشَارُوا إِلَى شُرَكَائِهِمْ فِي السَّفِينَةِ الْأُخْرَى أَنْ يَأْتُوا وَيُعَاوِنُوهُمْ. فَاتُّوا وَمَلَأُوا السَّفِينَتَيْنِ حَتَّى كَادَتَا تَغْرَقَانِ* فَلَمَّا رَأَى ذَلِكَ سِمْعَانُ بُطْرُسُ، حَرَّ عِنْدَ رُكْبَتَيْ يَسُوعَ قَائِلًا: "أُخْرِجْ عَنِّي يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنِّي رَجُلٌ خَاطِيٌّ"* لِأَنَّ الْإِنْذِهَالَ اعْتَرَاهُ هُوَ وَكُلُّ مَنْ مَعَهُ لَصِيدِ السَّمَكِ الَّذِي أَصَابُوهُ* وَكَذَلِكَ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوْحَنَّا ابْنَا زَبْدَى اللِّذَانِ كَانَا رَفِيقَيْنِ لِسِمْعَانَ. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِسِمْعَانَ: "لَا تَخَفْ، فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْآنَ تَكُونُ صَيَّادًا لِلنَّاسِ"* فَلَمَّا بَلَغُوا بِالسَّفِينَتَيْنِ إِلَى الْبَرِّ، تَرَكَوْا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَتَبِعُوهُ.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

THE DISMISSAL

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-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; of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Martyr Kallistratos and the 49 martyrs with him; the Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon and Mark of the Seventy; New-martyr Aquilina of Thessalonica; Venerable Ignatius, abbot in Asia Minor; and Venerable Savvatos of Solovky, 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.

الكاهن: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا الْحَقِيقِي، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ لِأَجْلِ خَلَاصِنَا، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمِّكَ الْقَدِيسَةِ الْكَلْبِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيئَةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُحْيِي؛ وَبِطَلَبَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمُسْرَفِينَ الرُّسُلِ الْجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِيسِينَ يُوْحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْفَمِ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقِسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشِّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ (ة) (فُلَانِ، فُلَانَةَ) شَفِيعِ (ة) وَحَامِي (ة) هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الصَّدِيقِينَ يُوَاكِمِ وَحَنَّةَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ؛ وَالشَّهِيدِ كَالِيَسْتَرَاتُسَ وَالتَّسْعَةَ وَالْأَرْبَعِينَ شَهِيدِ بِرَفَقَتِهِ، الرَّسُولِ أَرِيَسْتَرُخُسَ، زَيْنُونَ وَمُرْقُسَ مِنَ السَّبْعِينَ، الشَّهِيدِ الْجَدِيدِ أَكْلِينَا مِنْ تِسَالُونِيكِي، الْقَدِيسِ إِغْنَاطِيُوسَ مِنْ آسِيَا الصُّغْرَى، وَالْقَدِيسِ سَفَانِيُوسَ مِنْ سُولُوفُكِي، الَّذِي

	نُقِيمُ تَذَكَارَهُمُ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِّيسِيكَ، اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنْتَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.
Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.	الكاهن: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِّيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.
Choir: Amen.	الجوق: آمين.
Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from <i>The Menaion</i> , <i>The Great Horologion</i> , <i>The Pentecostarion</i> , <i>The Octoechos</i> , and <i>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.	



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
9116 Bayview Avenue
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3R9

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2019-2020

Fr. George, esteemed members of our Parish Council, My Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

During 2019-2020, the Sunday School had 147 students registered in our program. The Creative Festival Theme for the year was: *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”* (John 3:17). The Orthodox Church teaches there is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. In fact, salvation is a gift from God; for us to be saved, we must accept this gift and then continue to work together with God by following the teachings and practices of the church, as these represent the true path to participation in the gifts of God. To assist the children to better understand the theme, we encouraged them to accept God’s gift, offer opportunities to practice His teachings and provide them with ways to show their appreciation.

In Colossians 3:17, St. Paul gives us the following instructions: *“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* (Colossians 3:17). One way in which we showed our thanks to God is by participating in the usual humanitarian projects throughout the year. At Thanksgiving, we presented St. John the Compassionate Mission \$500 to purchase all that they needed to prepare a special meal for their large drop-in community. During the Advent Lent, we packed 150 shoeboxes, which were delivered to Operation Christmas Child to be dispersed to needy children around the world. This year, one of our Sunday School Alumni actually had an “Operation Christmas Child” birthday party for her son. Rather than having the invited children bring gifts for her son, she encouraged them to bring items to pack shoeboxes for needy children instead. Twenty of our shoeboxes were a result of the generosity of her son and his friends. Through our Prison Ministry Angel Tree program we delivered gifts to 63 children whose parent was imprisoned. Three hundred and five loot bags filled with personal care items and other treats were delivered to St. John the Compassionate Mission to be distributed to the needy in Downtown Toronto. “Food for Hungry People” boxes were sent home with the children for collection during the Advent fast and we collected money from the children throughout the year to sponsor our child, Raymond, in Lebanon, through the Archdiocese “Project Loving Care” program. Raymond turned 18 this year, so it will most likely be the last year we will be sponsoring him.

Additionally, we showed our Lord our thanks by sharing our beliefs and His teachings with others. Our Sunday School family participated in “Life Chain” by joining other parishioners at the curb in front of the church to hold signs which publicize that we believe in the sanctity of human life. Our annual Harvestfest Party, was well attended as usual! This event reminds our children of our belief that God’s goodness should be celebrated, rather than following the pagan tradition of “Halloween”. This year, several of our children performed a puppet show directed by Amal Tahhan – the message portrayed by our puppeteers taught us about Greed; the children learned it is better to be generous with our gifts, then to be greedy and keep them to ourselves. All of the classes participated in our St. Nicholas Feast Day Celebration. This year we presented a play entitled “Who was present at the Birth of Jesus”. We all learned what a special honour it was for the individuals/animals who were present at Christ’s birth, and what it must have been like to experience this miracle. Everyone did an amazing job of reminding us of the day when God sent His Son to earth - a special day we celebrate every year!

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica writes: *“School gives a person rational education, but no spirituality. However, the young should have a living example to learn from, for such examples teach better than words.”* In an effort to allow our teachers and parents to become better examples for our children, we welcomed Dr. Philip Mamalakis, a renowned Professor at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, for a two-day retreat. Dr. Mamalakis shared his experience and knowledge with us; his suggestions encouraged us, as parents and teachers, to behave in such a manner that our children will learn and grow into successful and thriving adults who follow the teachings of our church. The retreat was opened to all Orthodox churches in the greater Toronto area and was extremely rewarding and inspirational for all that attended.

Unfortunately because of Covid-19, our program ended suddenly in March. Classes had to be cancelled, as were the Creative Festivals. The same theme will be used again next year. We regret we were not able to complete the year properly with the children, although all teachers offered one final “wrap-up” session with their classes via Zoom at the end of May.

It is with a heavy heart, that I address all of you one last time as I end my 25 years of involvement with the families and children of St. George Sunday School. Last fall, I informed Fr. George and the Parish Council of my intent to retire effective June 2020. While I am very excited to be able to have more time to spend with my family, particularly my grandchildren, my heart is filled with great sadness as my years as Sunday School Superintendent come to an end.

For over 25 years, the Sunday School has been my passion. It has consumed a major part of my thoughts, my time, my energy and my prayers. Truly, it is for God’s glory that I have worked so hard. And I did it with great love – primarily my love for the Lord, and my desire to serve Him with all of my being; but also my love for our beloved St. George community and the children. I have had the honour and privilege of working with so many incredible people – year after year, the Lord sent to me caring devoted people who wanted to serve Him through His children. As well, I have been blessed to work with so many amazing children and their parents – what a pleasure it has been to see our young ones grow in their faith, marry in the church and then bring their own children to church to learn about God. You have no idea of the endless joy I have experienced being a part of the spiritual growth and development of the families of St. George – and I am truly thankful to our Lord for allowing me this special blessing!

I now have 2 grandchildren (3 years and 1 year) and 2 more arriving in March. The last few years have left me feeling torn between my responsibilities to the Sunday School and the desire to spend more time with my grandchildren/children. I am confident, that by the grace of God, the Sunday School will continue to thrive under the direction of younger, fresher new minds and hearts. I extend to **everyone**, my sincere thanks for all of the love and support you have shown to me over the years. My life has been richer, because of the blessing of having all of you in it! I will always keep you in my prayers and ask, please, that you keep me in your prayers also. God bless you!

I remain your humble Servant of Christ

Joanie Younes
Sunday School Superintendent

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION PRESENTS LIFE CHAIN

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JOIN THOUSANDS ACROSS CANADA STANDING UP
AGAINST ABORTION IN THIS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020; 2-3 P.M.

YOUR INTERSECTION:

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9116 BAYVIEW AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL, ON

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