

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
27	Helmi Awad	13
28	Nickolas Abraham	52
28	Michael Aziz	68
29	Hanneh Dib	16
30	Isabelle Younes	3
30	Sadie Habib	40
30	Nestas Wakileh	31
1	Aimen Daher	42
2	Laurice Habib	9
2	Nada Yacoub Nassar	34
2	Michel Hinnawi	29
3	Jean Issa	54

- **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.

MEMORIAL

- **3- And 9-Day memorial service for Dawood Yousef Hajjar** offered by **Claudette and Shafic Zabaneh, Rania Zabaneh and their families**. May his memory be eternal!
The coffee hour is offered today in loving memory of **Dawood Yousef Hajjar** by his family.

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **Dec 3:** In loving memory of **Ernest and Yvonne Younes** from their family.
- **Dec 3:** for the good health of **Issa Bisharat** and his family
- **Dec 15:** in loving memory of **Helen Haddad** from her family
- **Dec 24:** for the good health of **Issa Bisharat** and his family

FALAFEL LUNCHEON

- **On Sunday, December 3, 2023**, **St. George Men Society** will be hosting a **Falafel Sandwiches Lunch at the church basement**. Please come and enjoy a hearty Falafel sandwiches with your family and friends. Please mark your calendar for the following dates, **Sunday Dec 17** (Foul).

FEAST OF ST. BARBARA

- Holy bread is offered for the good health of Grace Barbara and Nicole Dahdaly on their name's day sake. We wish to thank the Dahdaly family for sponsoring this feast, and serving the traditional Ulbe on this occasion.

POINSETTIA FLOWERS

- We are in need of Poinsettia flowers to decorate the Altar. If you wish to donate a plant, please see **Mr. George Ghneim** or call the office 905-731-7210.

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

- **SHOEBOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**– over 170 shoeboxes were filled by our community and were dropped off for delivery to needy children around the world.

PACKING OF BLESSING BAGS – was done this past Thursday. We prepared 150 bags for men, 75 bags for women and 180 bags for children. The bags will be distributed in the coming weeks to needy people in the downtown area by St. John the Compassionate Mission as well as to the people who attend their sister mission, Scarborough Good Neighbours Drop-in.

PRISON MINISTRY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM - Angels were only just received this week. We are sponsoring 21 children who live remotely and their gifts must be delivered through the mail. All the gifts have been purchased and sent to the caregivers, but you are still able to pay the sponsorship of one of these children by making a donation to the church for \$35 – please mark your cheque/donation for humanitarian projects please and thank you.

Michelle and Joanie are very grateful for everyone's generosity and support to these special projects. May you be richly blessed for helping to share the love of God with so many men, women and children during this special time of year. Thankyou – Chucrun!

In February, during the coldest time of the winter, we will be once again offering mini loot bags to the mission for our "Warm Hands – Warm Hearts Program". Hats and gloves along with a healthy snack will be provided to those in need who attend these 2 drop-in facilities. We would be grateful for your donations to help with the purchase of these items! God Bless and Thanks!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us

Michelle Alexopoulos 416-831-3813; m.alexopoulos@utoronto.ca;

Joanie Younes 416-402-7424; joanieunis@hotmail.com

SUNDAY-SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2023-2024

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

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.

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.

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)

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2023
TONE 1 / EOTHINON 4; TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

THE HOLY PROPHET ZEPHANIAH; MARTYRS AGAPIOS, SELEUKOS AND MAMAS;
 VENERABLE THEODOULOS, EPARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE THEODOULOS OF CYPRUS

- *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 these hymns in the following order:*

<p align="center">RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE</p>	<p align="center">أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الأول</p>
<p>While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.</p>	<p>إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا حُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حَفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ أَيُّهَا الْمُخَلِّصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. لِذَلِكَ قَوَّاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ: الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِتَدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِّكَ.</p>
<p>• <i>Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.</i></p>	
<p align="center">KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST’S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE <i>(**The original melody**)</i></p>	<p align="center">قِنْدَاقِ تَقْدِمَةِ الْمِيلَادِ بِاللْحَنِ الثَّلَاثِ</p>
<p>On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.</p>	<p>الْيَوْمَ الْعَذْرَاءُ تَأْتِي إِلَى الْمَغَارَةِ لِتَلِدَ الْكَلِمَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ، وَوَلَادَةً لَا تَفْسَرُ وَلَا يُنْطَقُ بِهَا، فَافْرَحِي أَيُّهَا الْمَسْكُونَةُ إِذَا سَمِعْتِ، وَمَجِّدِي مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّعَاةِ، الَّتِي سَيَظْهَرُ بِمَشِيئَتِهِ طِفْلاً جَدِيداً وَهُوَ إِلَهُنَا الَّتِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.</p>
<p align="center">THE EPISTLE (For the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost)</p>	<p align="center">الرسالة (لِلْأَحَدِ السَّادِسِ وَالْعِشْرِينَ بَعْدَ الْعَنْصَرَةِ)</p>
<p><i>Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.</i></p> <p>The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)</p> <p>Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true—and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a</p>	<p>لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا، ابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.</p> <p>فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.</p> <p>يا إخوة، أَسْلُكُوا كَأَوْلَادٍ لِلنُّورِ (فَإِنَّ ثَمَرَ الرُّوحِ هُوَ فِي كُلِّ صِلَاحٍ وَبِرٍّ وَحَقٍّ) مُخْتَبِرِينَ مَا هُوَ مَرْضِيٌّ لَدَى الرَّبِّ. وَلَا تَشْتَرِكُوا فِي أَعْمَالِ الظُّلْمَةِ غَيْرِ</p>

shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

المُثْمِرَةِ بل بالأحرى وبخوا عليها. فإنَّ الأفعال التي يفعلونها سرّاً يقبُح نكرها أيضاً. لكنَّ كلَّ ما يوبَّخ عليه يُعلنُ بالنور. فإنَّ كلَّ ما يُعلنُ هو نورٌ. ولذلك يقولُ استيقظ أيُّها النائمُ وقُمْ من بين الأمواتِ فيضيءَ لك المسيح. فانظروا إننَّ أن تسلكوا بحذرٍ لا كجُهلاء بل كحُكماء. مفتنين الوقتَ فإنَّ الأيامَ شريرةٌ. فلذلك لا تكونوا أغبياء بل افهموا ما مشيئةُ الرب. ولا تسكروا بالخمير التي فيها الدعارة بل امتلئوا بالروح. مكلمين بعضكم بعضاً بمزامير وتسابيح وأغاني روحيةٍ مُرتمين ومرتلين في قلوبكم للرب.

THE GOSPEL
(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

الإِنْجِيل (لِلأَحَدِ الرَّابِعِ عَشَرَ مِنْ لَوْقَا)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

**فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيّ
الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِذِ الطَّاهِرِ.**

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

في ذلكَ الزمان، فيما يسوعُ بالقربِ من أريحا، كانَ أعمى جالساً على الطريقِ يستعطي. فلَمَّا سَمِعَ الجَمْعَ مُجتازاً سأل: «ما هذا؟» فأخبرَ بأنَّ يسوعَ النَّاصِرِيِّ عابِرٌ. فصَرَخَ قائلاً: «يا يسوعُ ابنَ داوُد، ارحمني!» فزجره المُنقِمونَ لئيسكت، فازدادَ صُراخاً: «يا ابنَ داوُد، ارحمني!» فوقفَ يسوعُ وأمرَ أن يُقدَّم إليه. فلَمَّا قُربَ سألَهُ: «ماذا تُريدُ أن أصنعَ لك؟» فقال: «ياربُّ أن أبصرَ!» قالَ لَهُ يسوعُ: «أبصر. إيمانك قد خلصك». وفي الحالِ أبصر، وتبعه وهو يمجِّدُ الله. وجميعُ الشعبِ إذ رأوا سبَّحوا الله.

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

THE DISMISSAL

الختم

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;

الكاهن: أيُّها المَسِيحُ إلَهُنا الحَقِيقِي، يا مَنْ قامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأمواتِ، بِشَفَاعاتِ أُمِّكَ الكُلِّيَّةِ الطَّهارةِ والبريئةِ

<p>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; <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 the Holy Prophet Zephaniah; Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos and Mamas; Venerable Theodoulos, Eparch of Constantinople; and Venerable Theodoulos of Cyprus, 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>مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّالِبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُخْيِي؛ وَبِطِبَابَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَّمَةِ الْعَامَّةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانَ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمُشْرَفِينَ الرَّسُلِ الْجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِيسِينَ يُوْحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْقَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ، وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشَّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ (ة) (فُلَانِ، فُلَانَةَ) شَفِيعِ(ة) وَحَامِي(ة) هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِيِّ، يُوَاكِمِ وَحَنَّةً؛ وَصَفْنِيَا النَّبِيِّ، وَالشُّهَدَاءِ أَغَابِيُوسَ، سَلُوقَ وَمَامَا؛ وَأَبِينَا الْبَارَ ثِيُوْدُولُوسَ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْبَارَ ثِيُوْدُولُوسَ الْقُبْرُصِيَّ، الَّذِينَ نُقِيمُ تَذْكَارَهُمْ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِيسِيكَ، إِرْحَمْنَا وَحَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنْتَ 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>الْكَاهِنُ: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا، ارْحَمْنَا وَحَلِّصْنَا.</p>
<p>Choir: Amen.</p>	<p>الجوقة: آمين.</p>
<p>These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from <i>The Menaion, The Great Horologion, The Pentecostarion, The Octoechos, The Triodion-Holy Week</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.</p>	



Help Give

Bags of Blessings!!

- ❖ Our Church is again making “**Blessing Bags**” for people in need. The bags will be distributed during this Christmas season through St. John the Compassionate Mission.
- ❖ Each bag will contain: Toiletries, Socks, Hats & Gloves, and an extra Christmas treat/gift. Samples of the bags are shown below.



This small gesture will make someone's Christmas a little brighter and remind them of God's love!!

Jesus teaches us that ***It is more blessed to give than to receive.*** This year the mission has indicated the need is far greater than normal. To help we are aiming to make: *150 bags for men, 75 for women & 180 for children.* Please help us make this year's goal and give generously.

Donations can be made to the Church. Please write on the cheque, or note on the online donation, that the funds are for **Blessing Bags**.

For more information, or to get involved in packing/distributing, please contact:
Joanie Younes (joanieunis@hotmail.com) or Michelle Alexopoulos (m.alexopoulos@utoronto.ca)



Services at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.
Month: December 2023

Date	Time	Service
Saturday December 2 nd	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 3 rd	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: 14th Sunday of Luke, The Holy Prophet Sophonias
	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers & Litia/Artoklasia: Barbara the Great Martyr, John of Damascus
Tuesday December 5 th	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy: Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra
Saturday December 9 th	10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos
	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 10 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: 10 th Sunday of Luke, Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, & Euegraphos
Monday December 11 th	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy: Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous
Saturday December 16 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 17 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail
Tuesday December 19 th	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy: Ignatius of Antioch, Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Friday December 22 nd	10:00 a.m.	Great (Royal) Hours and Typika
Saturday December 23 rd	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 24 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: 13th Sunday of Luke, Alypius the Stylite
	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers & Litia-Artoklasia
Monday December 25 th CHRISTMAS	9:00 a.m.	Festal Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: NATIVITY OF CHRIST
Tuesday December 26 th	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers & Litia-Artoklasia: Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr
Saturday December 30 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 31 st	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Sunday after Nativity, Apodosis of the Nativity of Christ
	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers & Litia-Artoklasia: Circumcision of Christ, Basil the Great

Activities at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.

Month: December 2023

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Friday December 1 st	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	8:00 – 9:30 pm	Sunday School Activity for the Feast of St. Barbara	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday December 2 nd	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Soccer	Gym at St. George Centre
Sunday December 3 rd	After Holy Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement

Thursday December 7 th	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday December 8 th	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday December 9 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Soccer	Gym at St. George Centre
	6:00 – 8:00 pm	YAM Bible Study	Church Basement
Sunday December 10 th	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Christmas Carols Performed by the Sunday School	Church & Basement

Thursday December 14 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 December 15 th	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday December 16 th	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Soccer	Gym at St. George Centre
Sunday December 17 th	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Nativity Concert	Church

Tuesday December 19 th	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Bi-weekly Catechism Class	Church Basement
Thursday December 21 st	8:30 – 11 p.m.	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday December 23 rd	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre

Thursday December 28 th	8:30 – 11 p.m.	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday December 29 th	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre

٥ ديسمبر: القديس سابا المتقدس

(عن سنكسار أخريد للقديس نيقولاى الأخرىدي)

ذاع اسم قرية موتالاسكا المغمورة، في مقاطعة كبادوكيا، تركيا الحالية، بسبب ولادة القديس سابا فيها. ولد القديس سابا لأبوين هما يوحنا وصوفيا. انتقل أبواه إلى الإسكندرية ولما يزل في الخامسة من عمره، فأودعاه أحد أحواله. أساءت زوجة خاله معاملته، ففرّ من البيت ولجأ إلى إلى أحد أعمامه، ممّا أدّى إلى حصول نزاع كبير بين العمّ والخال، لأنّ ورثة سابا القيّمة من أملاك ومال كانت كبيرة. أثار النزاع في نفس القديس الزهد بهذا العالم وشروره ففرّ إلى أحد الأديرة القريبة، وكان قد بلغ الثامنة من عمره.

ترك كل أملاك والديه وراءه، ولجأ إلى دير فلافيانا القريب من قريته. ورحل، بعد عشر سنوات، إلى أديرة فلسطين حيث التقى بالقديس أفثيمىوس ورجاه بدموع أن يقبله في عداد نسّاكه. عرف القديس أفثيمىوس ببصيرته أنّ هذا الراهب الشابّ سوف يلعب دوراً كبيراً في المستقبل، فسلمه إلى القديس ثيوكتستوس.

بعد موت ق. إفثيمىوس خرج ق. سابا إلى البرية حيث عاش خمس سنوات ناسكاً في أحد الكهوف. وبعد أن اكتمل ونضج في الحياة الرهبانية لفتت عناية الله الأنظار إليه، فتقاطر إليه الكثير من طلاب الحياة الروحية. ولما كثروا بنى لهم كنيسة والكثير من القلاي.

أتاه طلاب رهبنة أرمن فقبلهم وزوّدهم بكنيسة يقيمون فيها صلواتهم بلغتهم الأرمنية. بعد موت أبيه أتت أمّه إليه فرسمها راهبة وأعطاها قلاية على مسافة من الدير، حيث عاشت بقية أيامها عيشة نسكية.

تحملّ القديس سابا الكثير من الهجوم من كلّ الجهات: من القريبين ومن الهراطقة ومن الشياطين، لكنّه هزمها جميعاً. غلب القريبين بوداعته ولطفه، والهراطقة بإيمانه الراسخ، والشياطين بإشارة الصليب واستدعاء الله.

أسس القديس سابا سبعة أديرة واعتبر مع جاره ثيودوسيوس أعظم نورين وعمودين ظهرّا في الأرثوذكسية في الشرق.

قومًا إيماناً أباطرة وبطاركة، وخدمًا الجميع وكان مثالين في التواضع وقوة الله العجائبيّة. وبعد جهاد طويل وحياة مثمرة دخل ق. سابا في الراحة الأبديّة في العام ٥٣٢، عن عمر أربع وتسعين سنة. وقد بقي لنا منه تبيكون الخدمات الليتورجية المعروف بتببيقون دير مار سابا. ولا يزال دير الذي يحوي جسده المقدس عامراً في برية صحراوية بالقرب من مدينة القدس الشريف.

عظة للقديس نيقولا الأخردي

قد يبدو رجل دولة أو قائد عسكري ما عظيماً بسبب مكانته أو مهارته، لكن ما من شخص أعظم من الإنسان الذي يملك إيماناً ورجاء ومحبة عظيمين.

تظهر عظمة إيمان ورجاء القديس سابا بالله في الحادثة التالية: أتى مدبر الدير إليه مرّة يخبره بأنّه لن يكون قادراً على قرع ناقوس الصلاة والمائدة يومي السبت والأحد القادمين، على جري العادة في الدير، لأنّ مخزن الدير فارغ تماماً من الطحين، ولا يوجد فيه شيء للأكل أو الشرب. وأضاف حتّى القديس الإلهي لن يُقام. فأجابه القديس سابا: "لن ألغي القديس الإلهي بسبب عدم توفر الطحين. أمين الذي أمرنا بالأنا نهمّ بالأشياء الأرضيّة، وقدير هو على إطعامنا في وقت الجوع". واضعاً كلّ ثقته في الله، بدأ التحضير كي يرسل بعضاً من الأدوات الكنسية والبدايات الكهنوتية لبيعها في المدينة، حتّى لا يُحرم الإخوة من خدمة القديس الإلهي ولا من وجبات الطعام.

لكن العناية الإلهية حرّكت بعض الرجال كي يرسلوا ثلاثين بغلاً محمّلين بالقمح والخمر والزيت إلى الدير، يبل يوم السبت. فسأل ق. سابا الأخ المدبر: "ماذا تقول الآن أيها الأخ؟". فخلج الراهب بسبب ضعف إيمانه وطلب من القديس سابا الغفران.

يصفه كاتب سيرته هكذا: "شديد جدّاً مع الشياطين، ومتسامح جدّاً مع الناس." تمرّد بعض الرهبان عليه مرّة، فأمرهم البطريك المقدسي إيليا بمغادرة الدير. فبنوا لأنفسهم أكواخاً بسيطة على أحد الأنهار، حيث عانوا من حرمان وفقر شديدين. عندما سمع ق. سابا بفقرهم حمّل بغالاً بالطحين وأتى بها إليهم. ولمّا رأى أنّهم يعيشون بلا كنيسة بنى لهم واحدة. في البدء استقبله الرهبان بجفاء، لكنّهم، في ما بعد، تجاوبوا مع محبّته وبادلوه بمحبّة مقابلة، وتابوا عن أفعالهم الخاطئة وطلبوا منه الغفران.

نفعنا الله بشفاعته.

December 5: Venerable Saba the Sanctified

(From *The Prologue from Ochrid* by St. Nikolai Velimirovich)

The unknown village of Mutalaska, in the province of Cappadocia, became famous through this great luminary of the Orthodox Church. St. Saba was born there of his parents John and Sophia. At the age of eight, he left the home of his parents and was tonsured a monk in a nearby monastic community of St. Flavian (Feb. 16). After ten years, he moved to the monasteries of Palestine and remained longest in the monastery of St. Euthymios the Great (Jan. 20) and St. Theoctistus (Sept. 3). The clairvoyant Euthymios prophesied of Saba that he would become a famous monk and a teacher of monks, and that he would establish a lavra (a cluster of monastic cells) greater than all the lavras of that time.

After the death of Euthymios, Saba withdrew to the desert, where he lived for five years as a hermit in a cave shown to him by an angel of God. Afterward, when he had matured in the monastic life, he began by divine providence to gather around him many who desired the spiritual life. Soon, such a large number gathered that Saba had to build a church and many cells. Some Armenians also came to him, and for them he provided a cave where they would be able to celebrate services in the Armenian language.

When Saba's father died, his aged mother Sophia came to him, and he tonsured her a nun. He gave her a cell located at a distance from his monastery, where she lived a life of asceticism until her death.

This holy father endured many assaults from all sides: from those who were close to him, from heretics and from demons. But he triumphed over them all: those close to him, by kindness and indulgence; the heretics, by his unwavering confession of the Orthodox Faith; the demons, by the sign of the Cross and calling upon God for help. He had a particularly great struggle with demons on Mount Castellium, where he established his second monastery.

In all, Saba established seven monasteries. He and St. Theodosius the Great (Jan. 11), his neighbor, are considered to be the greatest lights and pillars of Orthodoxy in the East. They corrected emperors and patriarchs in matters of the Faith, and to everyone they served as an example of saintly humility and the miraculous power of God.

After a toilsome and very fruitful life, St. Saba entered into rest in 532 at the age of 94. Among his many wondrous and good works, let it at least be mentioned that he

was the first to compile the Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typicon.

For Consideration

A man may be great in some skill, as a statesman or a military leader, but no one among men is greater than a man who is great in faith, hope and love.

The greatness of St. Saba's faith and hope in God is best shown by the following incident: One day, the steward of the monastery came to Saba and informed him that the following Saturday and Sunday he would be unable to strike the semantron¹, according to tradition, to summon the brethren to the communal service and meal because there was not a trace of flour in the monastery nor anything at all to eat or drink. For this reason, even the Divine Liturgy was not possible. The saint replied without hesitation: "I shall not cancel the Divine Liturgy because of the lack of flour; faithful is He Who commanded us not to be concerned about bodily things, and mighty is He to feed us in time of hunger." Saba placed all his hope in God. In this extremity, he was prepared to send some of the ecclesiastical vessels or vestments to be sold in the city so that the brothers would be deprived neither of the divine services nor the customary meal.

However, before Saturday, some men, moved by divine providence, brought thirty mules laden with wheat, wine and oil to the monastery. "What do you say now, brother?" Saba asked the steward. "Shall we not strike the semantron and assemble the fathers?" The steward was ashamed because of his lack of faith and begged the abbot for forgiveness.

Saba's biographer describes this saint as "severe with demons but mild toward men." Once, some monks rebelled against Saba, and for this they were driven from the monastery by order of Patriarch Elias. They built themselves huts by a river near Tekoa, where they endured privation in all things. Hearing that they were starving, Saba loaded mules with flour and brought it to them personally. Seeing that they had no church, he built one for them. At first, the monks received Saba with hatred, but later, they responded to his love with love and repented of their former misdeeds toward him.

May we have his intercession before God.

¹ A long piece of wood, shaped for resonance and struck rapidly with a mallet.