

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8

**SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST, WHICH FALLS ON THE APODOSIS
(LEAVE-TAKING) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME

THE FIRST ANTIPHON	الأنتيفونا الأولى
<p>I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.</p> <p>Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.</p> <p>They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (Refrain)</p> <p>Glory... Both now... (Refrain)</p>	<p>أَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ يَا رَبُّ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي، وَأَحَدْتُ بِجَمِيعِ عَجَائِبِكَ. فِي مَجْلِسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ وَفِي مَجْمَعِهِمْ، عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَعْمَالُ الرَّبِّ.</p> <p>اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مُخَلَّصُ خَلْصُنَا. مُدَبَّرَةٌ طَبَقًا لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الْإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظْمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ (اللازمة)</p> <p>المجد ... الآن ... (اللازمة)</p>
THE SECOND ANTIPHON	الأنتيفونا الثانية
<p>Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.</p> <p>Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, <u>Who wast born of a Virgin</u>; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.</p> <p>Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (Refrain)</p> <p>There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (Refrain)</p> <p>Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...</p>	<p>طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَتَّقِي الرَّبَّ وَيَهْوَى وَصَايَاهُ جَدًّا. تَكُونُ ذُرِّيَّتُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَدِرَةً.</p> <p>اللازمة: خَلْصُنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ، لِنُرْتَلَّ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.</p> <p>المجد والغنى في بيته، وعدله يدوم الى دهر الداهرين. (اللازمة)</p> <p>أَشْرَقَ النُّورُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لِلْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ، النُّورُ يُشْرِقُ فِي الظُّلَامِ لِلْأَبْرَارِ، لِأَنَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ وَالرَّحِيمُ وَالصَّيِّقُ. (اللازمة)</p> <p>المجد ... الآن ... يا كلمة الله الإبن الوحيد...</p>
THE THIRD ANTIPHON	الأنتيفونا الثالثة
<p>The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.</p>	<p>قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِرَبِّي: اجْلِسْ عَنْ يَمِينِي حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ. عَصَا قُوَّةٍ يُرْسِلُ لَكَ الرَّبُّ مِنْ صِهْيُونَ. مَعَكَ الرَّيَاسَةُ فِي يَوْمِ قُوَّتِكَ، فِي بَهَاءِ قَدِّيسِيكَ.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Little Entrance, sing the apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ below. Then, the eisodikon: 	
THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE APODOSIS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST	إيسوديكون (ترنيمَةُ الدخول) وداع عيد ميلاد المسيح
<p>From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, <u>Who art risen from the dead</u>; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.</p>	<p>مِنَ الْبَطْنِ قَبْلَ كَوْكَبِ الصُّبْحِ وَلَدْتُكَ، حَلَفَ الرَّبُّ وَلَنْ يَنْدَمَ، أَنْتَ أَنْتَ الْكَاهِنُ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ عَلَى تَرْتِيبِ مَلَكِيصَادَق. خَلَّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنَ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، نَحْنُ الْمُتَرْتِلِينَ لَكَ: هَلِّلُويا.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now sing these hymns in the following order. 	
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE	أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الخامس
<p>Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.</p>	<p>لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدْ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلْأَبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَرْزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سُرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُوقَ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.</p>
APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR	أبوليتيكيون ميلاد المسيح بالحن الرابع
<p>Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.</p>	<p>مِيلادُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنَ الْكَوَكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوقِ أَتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.</p>
APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO	أبوليتيكيون الأحد بعد عيد الميلاد بالحن الثاني
<p>Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.</p>	<p>يَا يَوْسُفُ، بَشِّرْ دَاوُودَ جَدَّ الْإِلَهِ بِالْعَجَائِبِ الْبَاهِرَةِ، لِأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَ بَتُولًا حَامِلًا. فَمَعَ الرُّعَاةِ مَجَّدْتَ، وَمَعَ الْمَجُوسِ سَجَّدْتَ، وَبِالْمَلَائِكَةِ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ. فَابْتَهِلْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple. 	

<p align="center">KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE <i>(*The original melody*)</i></p>	<p align="center">قنداق لعيد ميلاد المسيح بالحن الثالث</p>
<p>On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.</p>	<p>اليوم البتول تلد الفائق الجوهر، والأرض تقرب المغارة لمن هو غير مقرب إليه. الملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون، والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريق يسرون، لأنه قد ولد من أجلنا صبي جديد، الإله الذي قبل الدهور.</p>
<p align="center">THE EPISTLE (For the Sunday before Theophany)</p>	<p align="center">الرسالة (للأحد قبل عيد الظهور الإلهي)</p>
<p><i>Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.*</i> The reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8) Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.</p>	<p>لنسجد لك كل أهل الأرض ويرتلوا لك. هليلوا لله يا جميع أهل الأرض.* فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى تيموثاوس. يا ولدي تيموثاوس، تيقظ في كل شيء واحتمل المشقات، واعمل عمل المبشر، وأوف خدمتك. أما أنا فقد أريق السكيب علي ووقت انحلامي قد اقترب. وقد جاهدت الجهاد الحسن، وأتممت شوطي، وحفظت الإيمان. وإنما يبقى محفوظاً لي إكليل العدل الذي يجزيني به في ذلك اليوم الرب، الديان العادل، لا إياي فقط، بل جميع الذين يحبون ظهوره أيضاً.</p>
<p><i>* The Prokeimenon is for the Nativity in recognition of the Apodosis of the Feast.</i></p>	
<p align="center">THE GOSPEL (For the Sunday before Theophany)</p>	<p align="center">الإنجيل (للأحد قبل عيد الظهور الإلهي)</p>
<p>The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8) The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness,</p>	<p>فصل شريف من بشارة القديس مرقس الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. بدء إنجيل يسوع المسيح ابن الله كما هو مكتوب في الأنبياء "هأنذا مرسل ملاكي أمام وجهك يهيئ طريقك قدامك. صوت صارخ في البرية: أعدوا طريق الرب واجعلوا سبله قويمه." كان يوحنا يعمد</p>

<p>preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."</p>	<p>في البرية ويكرز بمعمودية التوبة لغفران الخطايا. وكان يخرج إليه جميع أهل بلد اليهودية وأورشليم فيعتمدون جميعهم منه في نهر الأردن، معترفين بخطاياهم. وكان يوحنا يلبس وبر الإبل وعلى حنونه منطقة من جلد، ويأكل جراداً وعسلاً برياً. وكان يكرز قائلاً: إنه يأتي بعدي من هو أقوى مني، وأنا لا أستحق أن أنحني وأحل سير حذائه. أنا عمدتكم بالماء، وأما هو فيعمدكم بالروح القدس.</p>
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- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues with the following variables.*

<p>MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING IN TONE ONE</p>	<p>تَعْظِيمَة وداع العيد باللحن الأول</p>
<p><i>Magnify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.</i> Being well content, out of fear, to be silent would be easier, since silence hath no danger. O Virgin, it is hard to compose hymns with love framed in harmony, but we pray thee, O Mother: Do thou grant us strength as great as our volition.</p>	<p>عَظَمِي يَا نَفْسِي الْمُتَقَدَّةَ إِيَّانَا مِنَ اللَّعْنَةِ. يَا مَنْ هِيَ بَتُولٌ وَأُمٌّ مَعًا، إِنَّهُ لَيَعْسُرُ عَلَيْنَا جِدًّا أَنْ نَنْظُمَ لَكَ تَسَابِيحَ لَائِقَةً بِتَوَاتُرِ، لِأَنَّ الْخَوْفَ يَجْعَلُنَا نَخْتَارُ الصَّمْتَ، إِذْ هُوَ أَيْسَرُ حَيْثُ لَا خَطَرَ فِيهِ، وَأَمَّا الشُّوقُ، فَيُؤَلِّينَا نَشَاطًا، فَاْمُنْحِنَا قُوَّةً بِمِقْدَارِ مَيْلِنَا إِلَيْكَ.</p>
<p>KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE EIGHT</p>	<p>كينونيكون (ترنيمَة المناولة) للميلاد باللحن الثامن</p>
<p>The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.</p>	<p>لَقَدْ أَرْسَلَ الرَّبُّ فِدَاءً لِشَعْبِهِ. هَلْلُويَا.</p>

- *After Communion, instead of singing "We have seen the true light", sing the Festal Apolytikion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ."*

<p>THE DISMISSAL</p>	<p>الختم</p>
<p>Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, and 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;</p>	<p>الكاهن: أيها المسيح إلهنا الحقيقي، يا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ فِي مَغَارَةٍ وَاتَّكَأَ فِي مِدْوَدٍ مِنْ أَجْلِ خَلَاصِنَا، وَقَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمِّكَ الْكَلْبِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُحْيِي؛ وَبِطِبْلَبَاتِ الْقُوَاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَامِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ</p>

<p>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 and righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of God; of our Venerable Mother Melania the Younger 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>يُوحَنَّا المَعْمَدَانِ؛ والقَدِيسِينَ المُشَرَّفِينَ الرُّسُلِ الجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الجَلِيلِ فِي القَدِيسِينَ يُوحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الفَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ القُسطنطينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الخِزْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ؛ والقَدِيسِينَ المَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ المُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَانِنَا الأَبْرَارِ المُتَوَشِّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ والقَدِيسِ (فُلَانِ) صَاحِبِ وَشْفِيعِ هَذِهِ الرِّعِيَّةِ المُقَدَّسَةِ؛ والقَدِيسِينَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ يُوَاكِمِ وَحَنَّةَ جَدِّي المَسِيحِ الإِلهِ؛ والقَدِيسِينَ يوسُفَ الخَطِيبِ، وَداوودَ المَلِكِ، وَيَعقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ؛ والبَارَّةَ الأُمِّ مِلَانِيَا صَغِيرَةَ رُومَا، الَّذِينَ نُقِيمُ تَذَكَرَهُمُ اليَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِيسِيكَ، ارْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنتَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلبَشَرِ.</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 آبَانِنَا القَدِيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ المَسِيحُ إِلهُنَا، ارْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.</p>
<p>Choir: Amen.</p>	<p>الجُوقُ: 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,</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>	

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
25	Laurice Hinn	4
25	Beshara Zaccak	37
25	Issa Qaqish	23
25	Samuel Haick	71
26	Salim Majdalani	39
27	Fuad F. Durzi	41
28	Leon Boutros	29
29	Suhair Jacob Qaqish	2
29	Salima Aziz	69
30	Thomas Gavalas	16
31	Zouheir Karra	7
31	Susanne Tannous	18

- **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.

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.**

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**

ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS 2024

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

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORYFY HIM!

Many thanks for all the parishioners who contributed Poinsettias to adorn the church

May His Nativity bring Peace and salvation to one and all!

Rafik Bechbache & family

Georges El-Hage & family

Wassim El-Hage & family

Kenneth Davrey & family

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

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)

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: Sunday before Nativity
	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

Services at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.

Month: January 2024

Date	Time	Service
1st Week		
Monday January 1 st	9:00 a.m.	Festal Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.
Friday January 5 th Paramon of Theophany	9:00 a.m.	Great Royal Hours
	11:00 a.m.	Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Saturday January 6 th Theophany (Epiphany)	9:00 a.m.	Festal Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Waters
	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday January 7 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner.
2nd Week		
Saturday January 13 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday January 14 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
3rd Week		
Tuesday January 16 th	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy: Anthony the Great
Saturday January 20 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday January 21 st	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: 12th Sunday of Luke, Maximus the Confessor.
4th Week		
Wednesday January 24 th	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers: Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.
Saturday January 27 th	4:00 p.m.	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday January 28 th	9:00 a.m.	Orthros
	10:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy: 15th Sunday of Luke, Ephraim & Isaac the Syrian
5th Week		
Monday January 29 th	6:00 p.m.	Festal Orthros
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom.

Activities at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church – Toronto.

Month: January 2024

Date	Time	Activity	Location
<i>1st Week</i>			
Thursday January 4 th	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday January 5 th	8:00 – 9:30 pm	Sunday School Activity for the Feast of St. Barbara	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday January 6 th	12:30 – 1:30 pm	Piano Recital	Church Basement
<i>2nd Week</i>			
Tuesday January 9 th	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Bi-weekly Catechism Class	Church Basement
Thursday January 11 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 January 12 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 January 13 th	6:00 – 8:00 pm	YAM Bible Study	Church Basement
Sunday January 14 th	After Holy Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
<i>3rd Week</i>			
Thursday January 18 th	8:30 – 11:00 pm	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday January 19 th	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Byzantine Music Class	Church Basement
	9:00 – 10:00 pm	Families Bible Study	St. George Centre
	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
Sunday January 21 st	After Holy Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement
<i>4th Week</i>			
Tuesday January 23 rd	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Bi-weekly Catechism Class	Church Basement
Thursday January 25 th	10:30 – 2:00 pm	Homeschooling Group	Church Basement
	8:30 – 11 p.m.	Basketball for the Adults	Gym at St. George Centre
Friday January 26 th	7:30 – 11:30 pm	Families Gathering & Sports	Gym at St. George Centre
Saturday January 27 th	6:00 – 8:00 pm	YAM Bible Study	Church Basement
Sunday January 28 th	After Holy Communion	Sunday School	Church Basement



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)



A Contemplation and a Prayer

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

With the dawn of this new year, silence strongly draws me to You, and I prostrate in the stillness of the night, gazing toward Your radiant face, O Lord. I cherish silence, O Lord, not as an end in itself, but as the fullness of Your presence, and as a greater opportunity to listen to Your voice and observe Your work in my life.

Here I am, like all men, bidding farewell to one year and welcoming another. I know well that time moves on with or without me, gripping all of us tightly in its grasp, for we are at the mercy of time even if we try to escape and hide this fact.

Poor is man, O my Lord Jesus, and even poorer when he forsakes You and replaces You with more and more things. Poor and destitute he remains, because without You he is a prisoner of time and space, revolving around them, seeking liberation from their constraints, only to return and find himself once again under their dominion.

In vain, we bid farewell to and welcome the passing times with frivolity and worldly joys. Unless we taste the flavor of eternal life, which You alone bestow, we will not know true liberation. Your words, "For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past," (Psalm 89:4) will remain incomprehensible to us.

But, my Lord, how can I live in eternity while I am torn between various concerns, confined to an earthly life for years that, however long they may be, will not exceed seventy or eighty, as the psalmist says (89:10)?

In the tumultuous night of welcoming this year, I prostrate in silence to examine and scrutinize myself. I find that I am still seeking You, yet I falter on both sides of the path. At times, I desire You with all my being and sincerity, while at other times, this world ensnares me, causing me to forget You and neglect my true life. It seems that I have not yet broken free from the shackles of this world. As my sins lay before me, they tell me (in the manner of Your Saint Isaac the Syrian) that I still love them, as evidenced by my return to them from time to time.

This world no longer entices me with anything. My heart yearns to be filled with You alone. Everything in this world, from its fleeting joys to its passing pleasures "fades quickly, like the grass of the field," and only Your living and vivifying presence remains.

It is not in vain that Your peaceful saint, John Climacus, placed the virtue of asceticism on the first step of the ladder leading to heaven! How can one who desires eternity remain a captive of the world?

And how can I ask for eternity while being submerged, even to the point of drunkenness, in worldly affairs?

How can I live in renewal while not letting go of the bondage to which I have become accustomed?

Our world is filled with gossip, complaints, criticizing others, and self-glorification. How can we understand that true peace, to which we aspire, is not achieved by pursuing and drowning in these things?

Your face, which extends through the Church's institutions, remains marred by our shortcomings and those of us who lead them. We often stain it with our desires, knowingly or unknowingly.

And how evident it is in us who bear Your name, that we are not what You truly are. We confine You within our narrow boundaries and veil Your love from everyone, except from those we claim for ourselves and choose according to our desires.

We, O my Jesus, continue to be preoccupied with other beauties, which come from You. We become captivated by beauty, assuming it is from You, and we forget that Your true beauty is only revealed in the soul that adorns itself with You after casting away its sins, to be replaced by everything that comes from You and You alone.

Your people are weary, O Lord. Sins, corruption, and wars have burdened them. They have become so exhausted that they seek joy in whatever is offered to them. Anxiety leads and drives them to indulge in pleasures and to misunderstand true happiness.

May You guide us, O Lord, in the coming year, to the paths of salvation and quench our thirst with Your everlasting fountain of life.

May You open our hearts to abhor our sins, to cast them away, and to replace them with the fragrance of Your flowers.

May You grant us the courage to break free from what pulls us toward death and energize us to persevere in what gives us life.

May You enable us to see Your will in what happens to us and with us, recognizing that Your discipline is born out of pure love, and it opens new paths for us to walk towards You, away from futile vanities that do not benefit us.

May You bestow upon us a boldness that does not shy away from You, but steadfastly and tenderly testifies to Your love for all the world to know.

May You preserve us in Your peace, so that we may forget its imitations and carry it to those around us.

May You warm us with Your love, my Lord, in this coming year, so that we may prefer it over any love that opposes You.

May You help us love silence, O Lord, that we may listen to You. Make us new from within, O my Christ, so that the year may truly become new.

تأمل ودعاء

المتروبوليت سابا (اسبر)

مع مطلع هذه السنة الجديدة، يشدني الصمت إليه بقوة، وأسجد في هدأة الليل شاخصاً إلى وجهك النير، يا رب. أستعذب الصمت، يا رب، لا غاية بحد ذاتها، بل امتلاء من حضورك، وقدرة أكبر على الإصغاء إلى صوتك وفعلك في حياتي.

هاءنذا، كباقي البشر، أودع سنة، وأستقبل أخرى جديدة. مع أنني أعلم، جيداً، أن الزمان سائر بي ومن دوني. وأعرف أنه قابض على البشر بإحكام، لأنهم تحت رحمته، وإن تهربوا منه، وحاولوا التغطية عليه.

مسكين الإنسان، يا ربّي يسوع. ومسكين، بالأكثر، عندما يهجرك ويستبدلك بأشياء وأشياء. مسكين وفقير لأنه يبقى، من دونك، أسير الزمان والمكان؛ يدور ويدور حولهما، طلباً للحريّة منهما، ليعود ويجد نفسه تحت سلطتهما.

عبثاً نودّع ونستقبل الزمن باللهو والمسرات الدنيويّة. ما لم نذق طعم الحياة الأبديّة، الذي أنت وحدك معطيه، لن نعرف الانعتاق الحقّ، وستبقى كلماتك "ألف سنة في عيني الربّ، كيوم أمس الذي عبر،" غير مفهومة.

لكن، يا ربّي، كيف لي أن أعيش الأبديّة، وأنا موزّع بين هموم شتّى، تحصرني في حياة أرضيّة، لسنوات، مهما طالّت، لن تتجاوز السبعين ومع القوّة الثمانين، كما يقول المزمور؟

في صخب ليل استقبال هذه السنة، أسجد بصمت لأراجع نفسي، وأفحصها. فأجد أنني ما زلت أسعى إليك، وأنا أعرج على الجنبيين. تارة أريدك بكليّتي، وبكلّ صدق، وتارة يأخذني هذا العالم، فأنسأك وأهمل حياتي الحقّة. يبدو أنني لم أحرّر من رباطات الدنيا بعد. فخطاياي الماثلة أمامي، تقول لي، مع قدّيسك اسحق، إنني ما زلت أحبّها، بدليل عودتي إليها من حين إلى آخر.

لم يعد هذا العالم يغريني بشيء. وقلبي يطلب الملاء منك، ومنك وحدك. كل ما في هذا العالم، من مباحج ومسرّات "يذوي سريعاً كعشب الحقل"، ولا يبقى سوى حضورك الحيّ والمُحيي. ليس عبثاً وضع قديسك السلمي فضيلة الزهد في الدرجة الأولى، من سلّمه إلى السماء! فكيف لمن يبغي الذرى أن يبقى أسير الدنى؟

وكيف لي أن أطلب الأبديات، وأنا غارق، حتّى الثمالة، في الدنيويات؟
كيف أعيش الجدّة، وأنا لا أتخلّى عن العتاقة، التي شببت عليها واعتدتها؟

عالمنا مليء بالثرثرة والتذمّر وانتقاد الآخرين وتمجيد الذات. كيف له أن يفهم أنّ السلام، الذي يصبو إليه، لا يتحقّق بما يسعى إليه ويغرق فيه.

وجهك، المطلّ عبر المؤسسات، يبقى مشوّهاً بنقائصنا، نحن القائمين عليها، وكثيراً ما نلطّخه بأهوائنا، بمعرفة وبغير معرفة.

وكم تظهر فينا، نحن الذين نحمل اسمك، غير ما أنت عليه في الحقيقة. نحصرّك في أطرنا الضيقة، ونحجب حبّك، إلا عمّن ننسبهم إلينا، ونختارهم بحسب أهوائنا.

لا نزال، يا يسوعي، ننشغل عنك بجماليات منك. يستغرقنا الجمال، فنؤخذ به، متوهّمينه إيّاك، وننسى أنّ جمالك الحقيقي لا يظهر إلا في النفس التي تتجمل بك أنت، بعد أن ترمي بسيئاتها بعيداً، لتستبدلها بكلّ ما يأتي منك، ومنك وحدك.

شعبك متعب يا ربّ. أثقلته الخطايا والمفاسد والحروب. بات، لشدّة تعبته، يطلب الفرح في أيّ شيء يعرض عليه. يقوده القلق، الذي يحياه، إلى استسهال المباحج، واستصعاب الفرح الحقيقيّ.

ألا قدتنا ربّي، في هذا الزمن المقبل، إلى سبل الخلاص، ورويتنا من نبعك الدائم الحياة.
ألا فتحت قلوبنا، لتشمّر من مفايدها، فطرحها، وتستبدلها بعبير زهورك.
ألا منحتنا شجاعة تحرّنا ممّا يشدّنا إلى الموات، وتشحننا فنجدّ في إثر المحييات.
ألا أعطيتنا عيوناً ترى مشيئتك، في ما يحدث لنا ومعنا، فنعي أن تأديبك محبة خالصة، وطريقاً
جديدة تفتحها أمامنا لنغذّ الخطى إليك، ولا ننتهى بأباطيل لا تقيدنا.
ألا وهبتنا جرأة لا تخجل بك، بل تشهد لك بثبات ورقة، فيعرف العالم أنك تحبه.
ألا حفظتنا في سلامك، فننسى أشباهه، ونحمله إلى من هم حولنا.
ألا أدفنتنا بحبك، ربّي، في هذه السنة المقبلة، فنفضله على محبة ما هو ضدك.
حبّينا بالصمت يا ربّ، لكي نصغي إليك. واجعلنا جدداً، بك، من الداخل، يا مسيحي، لتصير
السنة جديدة.