



The Cornerstone

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
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WHAT'S COMING UP?

OCTOBER

October is TEEN MONTH. Look for events throughout the month

Arabic Cooking Classes- First four Tuesdays in October

NOVEMBER

November 12- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

November 19- Annual General Assembly Meeting

November 20 - Evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast of The Theotokos' Entrance into the Temple

DECEMBER

December 6- Antiochian Women's annual Ornament Exchange @ Bellevue Country Club

December 24- Regular Divine Liturgy

December 25- Christmas Divine Liturgy

THE CORNERSTONE

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

December 15, 2017

Send articles, photos or questions to:
steliasny@aol.com 315.488.0388

FALL 2017

New Beginning... New Commitment

Dear Elians,

I greet you and your loved ones with a holy kiss, praying you and your family are in the best of spirit as we together embark on another new ecclesiastical year.

Beloved, the New Year has begun with the celebration of our Lady the Theotokos' birth, hence opening the path for salvation of the world as she herself preserved purity and gave birth to the Savior of the World. In the same month we celebrated the feast of the Elevation of the Cross, the instrument used by our Lord to bring salvation to the world: the restoration of the fallen humanity and the sanctification of the world by using a tree to be suspended thereupon. The Fruit of this particular tree is Christ the giver of life.

As Christians, we take pride in our Christian faith and in the cross which symbolizes it to the world;



“for the Cross is the will of the Father, the Glory of the Son and the Joy of the Holy Spirit”. This the church proclaims and every Orthodox believer confesses, and by confessing we give witness to our faith and teach by example of our actions especially to our children and the youth of our beloved church.

The Youth are the future of the church and the life of the church. Without the youth and youthful activities within the church, our

Continued on next page

church will be paving the way for its demise. It is no wonder why the Archdiocese has put its focus in the entire month of October to honor our youth by allowing them to give witness to their faith. Faith gives our youth hope of better things to come in the faces of their struggles and challenges in their formative years. By nurturing, supporting and guiding through living example in church and at home, we will empower them to grow spiritually in Christ.

Therefore beloved Elians, let us individually take time and reflect on our participation in the church life both spiritually and socially. If we find ourselves lacking, let us have a new beginning and a new commitment: for the measure that you give is the measure you will get” (Matthew 7:2). Let us uplift one another in love and share the burden with joy that we may reap the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit in us, all things are possible and all good things come down from above. May the Holy Spirit protect you and yours from all harm as you embark on this new church year.

In Christ,

Father Elias

Hymn to the Theotokos

(From the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art blessed and all-blameless, and the mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain bearest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify Thee.

www.antiochian.org



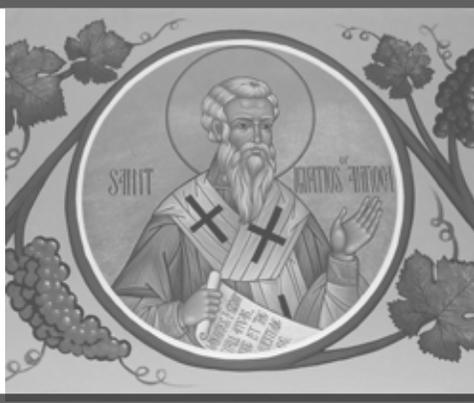
...through whom the Incarnation was made possible

The Synaxis of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated today for the following reason:

In 980, during the reign of Emperor Basil II, when Nicholas Chrysoberges was Ecumenical Patriarch, the holy Archangel Gabriel appeared in the guise of a monk to the disciple of a certain elder living in a hermitage belonging to the Monastery of Pantocrator on the Holy Mountain. During Matins, after the monk had chanted the customary hymn, “More honorable than the Cherubim....” composed by Saint Cosmas the Hymnographer, the Angel chanted the same hymn, but with the following prelude: “It is truly meet to call thee blest, the Theotokos, the ever-blessed and all-immaculate and Mother of our God.” Marvelling at the hymns’ beauty, the monk asked his visitor – who appeared also to be a monk—to

record this new text in writing, which the Angel did by miraculously inscribing the words on a piece of slate, using only his finger, and straightway he vanished from sight. This slate was brought to the Church of the Protaton, and from thence to Constantinople, to the imperial court and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as evidence of the miracle. Henceforth, this version of the hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos began to be chanted in the Divine Liturgy in all the churches. The place where the miracle took place is now called Adein, from the Greek word which means “to sing.” The icon itself, before which this hymn was first chanted, is called “the icon of the Axion estin” (“It is truly meet”) and it is kept in the sanctuary of the Church of the Protaton on the Holy Mountain.

The Order of St. Ignatius



Who are these people with the crosses?

SUBMITTED BY DONA SAVAGE

Who are these people with crosses and ribbons so bright? They are not noticed every week; it's a very unusual sight. What is so special about them? I'd really like to know, does the cross with the ribbon mean something? Or is it just a show?

Well, my friend let me tell you a story of sacrifice about a generation of committed folks, who wanted to pay the price. They shared in the vision of a leader, who has an ongoing dream, to build the Church of the Master, with commitment as the theme. For no Church ever progressed without giving with zeal. And because of their love for Christ, the dream becomes so real, they were not like the rich man who walked away very sad but like Matthew, Mark and Philip, to follow Christ. They were asked to give and they did, of their money and themselves.

The red is the blood of Ignatius, which was shed out of love the cross means the sacrifice we offer to God above. This is the nature of the Church, to give of oneself with joy, otherwise the cross and the ribbon are nothing but a toy. The Order is



an arm of the Archdiocese, helping the Church to grow, to help meet the challenges and the seeds of giving to sow.

It's never enough to give your money to the Church and then retreat, it's a sign of an infected faith and an example of defeat. The members of St. Ignatius are not showing off. In deed, word and thought they are really trying to say, "Get involved in your Church, roll up the sleeves and work."

Our Lord does have a challenge, we can't hesitate or shirk. Everyone has a role to play in making of tomorrow, it's much better to produce the joy than to be content with sorrow.

The reality of dream is brought about by people getting involved. Its how the Church moves ahead and problems get resolved. When we pledge our love to the Church, the Church does come alive and instead of just surviving it will always flourish and thrive.

Don't stand back and admire an act of love and devotion, but do your share in all you can and set your faith in motion. The Order did; it's up to you to respond to the Master's voice, to walk with Christ, invest your talents and let your spirit rejoice.

From "Who Are These People With The Crosses?" by Father Elias Bitar

Clement of Alexandria

"'Eat my flesh,' [Jesus] says, 'and drink my blood.' The Lord supplies us with these intimate nutrients, he delivers over his flesh and pours out his blood, and nothing is lacking for the growth of his children" (*The Instructor of Children* 1:6:43:3 [A.D. 191]).



New sterling silver Chalice set donated by Clair Abdo and family for their continued health and wellbeing and in loving memory of beloved husband, father and grandfather Abraham Robert "Bob" Abdo.

Guiding Principle for the Order of St. Ignatius:

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

2017-2019 Building Fund Campaign Drive Update

Total Parishioner Commitment: \$34,100 (as of Sept 2017)
Amount Received: \$23,100 Amount Pledged: \$11,000



HERE'S THE PLAN

- 1) Enlarge & Enhance the Kitchen which will provide larger preparation area, more storage and more room.
- 2) Upgrade the Social Hall by renovating and modernizing ceiling, walls and flooring.
- 3) Resurface Parking Lot which will include new curbing in front of church and improved handicap parking spaces.
- 4) A new Handicap Ramp and Entrance on the west side which will include automatic doors with push buttons along with energy-efficient glass.
- 5) Replace the third and final Roof.

We are hopeful that all parishioners of St. Elias will support this major campaign drive for our church in whatever capacity works for each. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have the kitchen and church hall done by Festival 2018? Please give or pledge today. Remember you can make pledge payments over the next three years.



We would like to thank the following Parishioners who have committed to date:

THANK YOU to the following parishioners who have committed to date:

- Anthony Abboud for the overall efforts
- Gloria Abdo for the overall efforts
- Nick & Yvonne Abdo for the overall efforts
- Dr. Mazen Beshara & Dr. Mary Abdulky for the overall efforts
- Alex Eassa, Jr., in memory of Alexander B. Eassa, Sr.
- Thomas N. Eassa, in memory of Alex B. Eassa, Sr. & in honor of Betty B. Eassa
- Kathy & Bob Fedrizzi, in memory of Jack Rezak & in honor of his love and service for St. Elias Church
- Nabil & Annette Habayeb, in memory of Antoine & Samira Habayeb and Elvira Bajjaly
- Shibel & Anna Jabaji for the overall efforts
- Mai Makhoul for the overall efforts
- Father Elias Nasr, in loving memory of Economos Zacharia, Khouria Nasra and Angela Nasr
- Faris & Lisa Sousou for the overall efforts
- Debra Taylor-Weiss for the overall efforts

LEVELS OF GIVING ARE AS FOLLOWS, BUT CERTAINLY ANY GIFT IS WELCOME (3 YEAR GIFT)

PLATINUM \$10,000+	SILVER \$1,000-\$2,999
DIAMOND \$6,000-\$9,999	BRONZE \$250-\$999
GOLD \$3,000-\$5,999	

_____ This gift supports the overall efforts.
 _____ This gift is in memory of _____
 _____ This gift is in honor of _____

Total Amount of Gift: \$ _____
 Amount Paid Today \$ _____
 Balance Due: \$ _____

The balance \$ _____ will be paid by _____

If you have any questions about this campaign or would like to be part of this effort, please feel free to contact Kathy Fedrizzi at (315) 345-7402 or email kathyfed@twcny.rr.com.

SOYO



Welcome New Advisor & Officers!

It's time to congratulate this year's
Teen SOYO officers:

Advisor- Grace Khairallah
President- Josef Akl
Vice President- Aliah Mahshie
Secretary- Jabra Tarazi
Treasurer- Estelle Khairallah
Historians- Samira Mahshie and
Faris Khoury

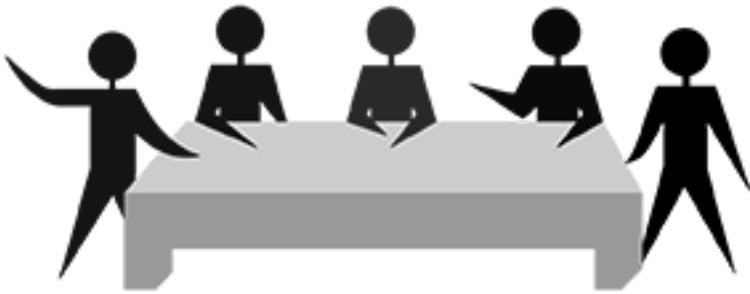
Bishop ALEXANDER inducts new Teen SOYO officers and their Advisor during Divine Liturgy on Sunday. SOYO has a lot of great plans for the year, including events during October, designated as Teen Month. Please make it a priority to support the youth of our church!



New Members:
Saher Zawaideh and Lana
Hazou and daughter Naya

Bishop ALEXANDER and Father Elias bless the food prepared by the Antiochian Women for Sunday's luncheon. Special thanks to the Teen SOYO members who helped in the set up and clean up for the event.

PARISH COUNCIL



Dear Parishioners,

Before we knew summer started, fall has quickly taken over. With it comes the start of Sunday School. Please bring your children every week so that they can participate and learn the Orthodox faith. Their continued participation is important to their growth as Orthodox Christians and to the future of St. Elias Church. Thank you to Nujoud Makhlof for once again leading the program. In addition, we need to continue to support our teens. I would like to thank Grace Khairallah for agreeing to be the teen advisor.

The fall season also brings with it a couple important events. Please note the following dates and join us:

- Sunday, November 12th, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by the Antiochian Women, will take place in the church hall. Hope you will be able to attend, enjoy the fellowship, while supporting the Antiochian Women.
- On Sunday, November 19th, the annual General Assembly meeting will take place imme-

diately following Liturgy. We invite the entire congregation to attend this important meeting. The Parish Council will discuss the business and financials of 2016/2017 and give an update on the building projects.

If you are interested in getting involved on the Parish Council and would like to run for a position, please see Kathy Fedrizzi, Nominating Chair or Fr. Elias by November 9th. There will be three open positions to be filled. Ronda Akl, Kathy Fedrizzi and myself have fulfilled two 3-year terms and will be coming off the Council. The nominating process as indicated in the Church By-Laws states:

“In an attempt to properly conduct the nomination process to recruit Parish Council members, the Pastor will verify all persons wishing to run and/or that are being nominated must be spiritually and financially eligible. In order to carry out such a process and not cause embarrassment, undermine the work of the Nominating Committee’s efforts, and to save time.

All nominations for parish members in good standing who wish to run for the Parish Council must

be submitted to the Nominating Chair/Committee at least 10 days prior to the General Assembly meeting. Anyone wishing to run for the Parish Council must submit a short biography detailing his or her background in general with emphasis on church activity and obtain the spiritual approval of the Parish Priest before the annual meeting. There will be no nominations from the floor for Parish Council at the annual meeting.”

I have enjoyed representing St. Elias Church as chairman so far this year and thank all parishioners for their support. Please let me know if there is any other way I can assist to help strengthen our church and hope that many of you will volunteer to serve your church through participation in Parish Council as I have done over the past several years.

Respectively,
Tony Abboud
Parish Council Chairman

Remember! **Liturgical Offering and Expectations**

- All Orthodox adult members are to
- Attend all liturgical services if one is able
 - Offer the Holy Bread of oblation once a year
 - Support financial obligation
 - Have home blessed
 - Support church organization activities
 - Help with the church festival
- P.S. Church service books are to remain in church.



and explaining why he has packed it. As he does so, Thomas unknowingly reveals how carefully he has been paying attention to teachings about the Faith, and unveils his commitment to following Christ, even though it means stepping away from his beloved routines.

The colorful watercolor illustrations in this picture book are gently realistic. They invite the reader to feel comfortable in Thomas' home and with his family. There is just enough detail to illustrate the story in an orderly manner, just as Thomas likes his world to be organized. There is also just

enough missing in each illustration to leave room for the reader's imagination, inciting curiosity.

The Suitcase is full of scriptural references. The reader can't help but try to

make connections: What was Thomas thinking about when he packed this item? Where did he hear about that one? Where can I learn more about it?!? Parents and teachers will find in *The Suitcase* more than just a lovely story. They will find in it an opportunity to delve into the scriptures with their children, to ensure that they know the source of each of the contents in Thomas' wonderful suitcase.

Readers of all ages will be challenged to think beyond their own routines, consider what they should be "packing" in their own suitcase, and then reach out into the Kingdom of Heaven

by finding ways to love and serve all those around them. The resource page at the end offers an excellent place to begin!

The Suitcase will be a welcome addition to any Orthodox Christian family's library. It offers a sweet story as well as many opportunities to learn from the scriptures. Thomas' preferences of routine and order can give families the opportunity to discuss autism and the challenges that people with autism face (especially if the family does not have a family member or friend living with autism). The story also gives its readers a chance to learn from Thomas' determination to step outside of his comfort zone, and makes each reader think about how to do likewise in order to attain (and extend) the Kingdom of God in his/her own life!

Note: The author of this review was given a reading copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. Visit the Paraclete Press website to order your own copy of the book.

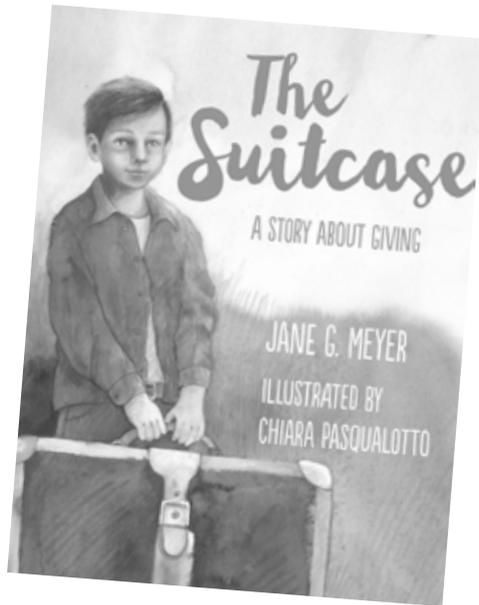
Parents:

Talk together as a family about Thomas. In what ways is he just like other kids? In what ways is he maybe a little different? What can we learn from him? Then think about each member of your family and talk about each person. In what ways is each family member like others their own age? In what ways are they different? What do you learn from that family member that makes you a better person? Encourage each other to remember to love and learn from everyone else, especially those who are different from ourselves. God has given them to us for that very reason!

Gleanings from a Book: "The Suitcase" by Jane G. Meyer

Taken from Antiochian.org

Orthodox Christian author Jane G. Meyer has written a new picture book called *The Suitcase: a Story about Giving*. The book was illustrated by Chiara Pasqualotto. It is the story of Thomas, a boy who may be autistic but does not let his challenges keep him from being an active participant - even a leader - in entering the Kingdom of God while bringing others with him. Any reader, regardless of age, will be challenged to find ways to make God's Kingdom happen in the world around them after meeting Thomas through this book.



Here is a brief summary and review of the book:

Thomas is like clockwork. He is so precise with his preferred activities that you can almost predict what he will do each day. So, when he randomly shows up at the family supper table one night with a suitcase, declaring that he intends to leave for the Kingdom of Heaven, it catches everyone's attention, for this is far from his routine! With his family's love and support, Thomas shares his plan, showing his family (and the reader) each item that he has packed

The Feast of the Elevation of the Cross

Sunday School children join the procession to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, while the choir and parishioners sing, Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.



“What dies on the cross is not our life, but the death that seeks to take that life from us. To take up a cross and die to selfishness and self-indulgence is to be reborn into the eternal riches of the kingdom of God.”

*Excerpt from V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Rogers
from The Word, September 2000*

Let all the trees of the wood, planted from the beginning of time, rejoice; for their nature hath been sanctified by the stretching of Christ on the Tree. Wherefore, now, we worship Him, lifted up, and magnify Him.

+ Orthros of the Feast, Tone 8



Canned Food Drive October- December



**38 million people
in North America
need our help!**

WORLD FOOD DAY, October 16th is sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United States, and was especially designed to heighten public awareness of food and hunger issues around the world.

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is one of the sponsoring organizations for the National Committee for World

Food Day. We now join 458 voluntary organizations throughout the United States and 163 countries around the world observing WORLD FOOD DAY! Last year 98 of our Parishes reported participating in this much needed program, with 40 parishes participating all year long, and we distributed 545,446 pounds of food within our communities.



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

RITA ALGATTAS, PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners:

May the Blessing of the Lord be with you all.

Since the time I was elected to be the Ladies' President, I have been blessed and honored to serve our church with the help and support of all of the parishioners, Father Elias and Parish Council.

Now that the Festival is behind us, I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have labored for the success of the festival again!

Our upcoming events are as follows:

- September 24-Parishioner Luncheon with his Grace Bishop Alexander
- 1st four Tuesdays in October- Cooking Classes
- November 12-Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Wednesday, December 6 Annual Ornament Exchange

We are looking forward to the participation of everyone in all of the upcoming events!

Your sister in Christ,
Rita Algattas



God Bless our Antiochian Women! Father Elias inducts new officers during Diving Liturgy in September. Rita Algattas – President, Grace Khairallah – Vice President, Georgina AlKhoury – Treasurer, Suha Alamir – Secretary, Dona Savage – Corresponding Secretary (not present).

Psalm 92:13

Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God.

Our "Garden" Angel!

God bless everyone's Aunt Hilda, who has planted a beautiful garden at the south entrance of the church. Thank you for the donation of flowers and for your time and energy to maintain our garden!



Eis pollá étē, Déspota!

A blessed weekend (September 23 & 24) was spent with a visit from His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER.

The weekend began with a Saturday evening Vespers service followed by dinner at Bellevue Country Club with the St. Elias Parish Council.

Sunday morning's Orthros and Divine Liturgy were followed by a lovely luncheon prepared by the

Antiochian Women and a round table discussion with His Grace, Father Elias, Deacon Nicholas, Teen SOYO and Sunday School children.

Sunday evening, Nabil and Suad Jabaji hosted dinner at their home with Bishop ALEXANDER and members of the Order of St. Ignatius.



His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER delivers his homily to parishioners during Sunday's Divine Liturgy. He urges us to stand firm in our beliefs as Orthodox Christians, while being respectful of others.



Members of the Order of St. Ignatius spend Sunday evening with the Bishop at the home of Suad and Nabil Jabaji.



Happy Anniversary!

October

Scott & Christine Gantos	3
Nader & Diana Souri	5
Rajeh & Salwa Makhlof	8
John & Diane Sauro	9
Issa & Sawsan Dannoun	20
Leon & Sheila Mazur	23
Adam & Charlotte Coville	31

November

Andrew & Deborah Eassa	4
Ludwig Khoury & Rania Habib	7
Fadi & Roula Khalifeh	8
Douglas & Debra Taylor-Weiss	10
Nadim & Nabila Nasser	11
Wahid & Ronda Akl	12
Shukri & Samantha Dayeh	15
Issa & Dana Nesheiwat	25
Sami & Jihan Khoury	29

December

Samih & Lalia Tadros	6
Joseph & Joan Jacobs	9
Mary Abdulky & Mazen Beshara	13
Louis & Antoinette Rezak	15
Albert & Tamar Totari	15
George & Mary El-Amir	16
Souhel & Vicki Shehadeh	16
Nabil & Diana Abdallah	26
Nassib & Reema Habayeb	27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October

Katerina Atallah-Yunes	1
Nader Awwad	2
Estelle Khairallah	2
Sheila Mazur	2
John Sauro	2
Shadia Tadros	2
Lorelei Tyler	3
Zuher Dabit	5
Matthew Kane	5
Trevor Rott	5
Gabrielle Awwad	6
Dena Tadros	8
Nazar Awwad	10
Andrew Kane	10
Diana Abdallah	11
Henry Atallah-Yunes	11
Marc Humsi	11
Lisa Sousou	11
Evon Hodge	12
Elizabeth Kissman	12
Ronda Akl	13
George Mtanos	15
Christian Aitchison	17
Lulu Abdo	18
Andrew Aitchison	18
Justin Jiries	21
Louis Rezak	22
Khalil Salameh	22
Edward Wazen	22
Cameron Aitchison	23
Nawal Tadros	23
Salim Fashho	24
Annette Habayeb	24
Renee Underwood	24
Samir Azar	25
Michael Beshara	25
Wahid Akl	27
Cathy Khammar	27
Debra George	28
Anna Tarazi	29

November

Karim Habayeb	1
Danna Sawalha	1
Andrew Mullen	2
Taghreed Tadrus	4
Kyle Fedrizzi	7
Fadi Makhlof	7
Corinne Whitworth	7
Louise Gantos	8
Evon DeRoberts	11
Jane Essi	11
Christine Wachna	12
Thomas Gabriel	14
Samira Sousou	14
Jeries Soury	16
Thomas Jiries	17
Lindsay Wachna	17
Kara Gantos	18
Cullen Kissman	18
Lutfi Salloum	18
Grace Alamir	19
Kamal Awwad	19
Sara El-amir	21
Philip Gabriel	21
Kathy Tadros	22
Ziad Habayeb	23
Maya Beshara	24
Robert Cotran	25
Christine Gantos	26
Gloria Abdo	28
Samir Tadrus	30

December

Gloria Dayeh	2
Ludwig Khoury	2
Deacon Nicholas Mahshie	2
Fr. Elias Nasr	2
Jaiden Abdo	3
Yvonne Abdo	3
Alexandra Bronchetti	3
Nick Tadros	3
Edward Sabbagh	4
Jacqueline Eadi	6
Nabeeha Mahshie	7
Amanda Tarazi	7
Georgina Abu Manneh	9
Phillip Kissman	9
Marya Al-Khoury	10
Nabeel Algattas	11
Nassib Habayeb	12
Andre Alamir	14
Alexis Gantos	15
Haifa Gantos	16
Nisreen Tadros	16
Heather Awwad	18
Emilie Sousou	18
Luca Vassallo	19
Deborah Essi	20
Maha Essi	24
George El-Amir	25
Ranah Tadros	25
Edmon Salameh	26
Isabella Essi	28
Suzanne Nesheiwat	28

**Would you like to be
included in our list of birthdays
& anniversaries?**

Please help us keep our records
current by contacting Dona Savage
at steliasny@aol.com (ascribed
members of St. Elias only, please).

THE CORNERSTONE

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4988 Onondaga Road . Syracuse, NY 13215 315.488.0388 .
sainteliasny.com

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Thought for the Day



"The more we love people,
the more our differences
disappear."

-- His Eminence,
Metropolitan JOSEPH

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