



The Cornerstone

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

4988 Onondaga Road Syracuse, NY 13215

315.488.0388 sainteliasny.com steliasny@aol.com

JULY

July 12- 15- Middle Eastern Festival
July 21- Feast of St. Elias

AUGUST

August 6 -Feast of Transfiguration
August 14- Feast of the Dormition Evening Liturgy 6pm

SEPTEMBER

September 9- First day of Sunday School
September 13- Elevation of the Cross
Divine Liturgy 6pm

THE CORNERSTONE

Production Team
Advisor- Very Rev. Fr. Elias K. Nasr, Archpriest
Editors- Sheila Mazur & Dona Savage
Proofreader- Dona Savage
Layout- Diane Sopp-Sauro
Data, Printing & Processing-Dona Savage &
Sheila Mazur
Mailing- Hilda Khammar

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

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

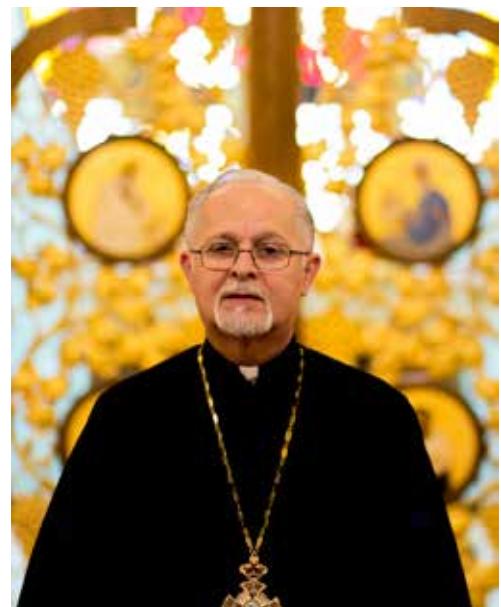
SUMMER 2018

In Word and in Deed

Dear Elians,

I greet you and your loved ones with a holy kiss, praying you and your family are in the best of health and spirit as we draw near to our Annual Festival. Three points to address:

1) The Annual Festival is a special event and plays an integral role in the life of our St. Elias family, for it gives us an opportunity to give witness to our faith and to our commitment by deed for this very noble cause. It brings its membership to labor, sharing the burden together. In as much the physical labor is taxing on some the benefit and reward of a successful Festival is indeed elating. For the Festival brings us the needed funds to begin renovation of our Kitchen and Church hall. Hence we call upon all to take advantage of this opportunity and be ready to do your fair share as St. Paul says, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10



2) Beloved, not only are we to focus on the Festival alone, but also on our Patron Prophet Elias which is celebrated throughout the world on July 20th. Our festival developed from our celebration of the Feast. What one can learn from our patron is unwavering faith and love to the Living God, Obedience with humility, Prayer with Zeal, and conviction with fortitude. We at St. Elias must emulate our Holy prophet and Patron so that the Living God who hearkened to him will hearken and bless us with abundance.

Continued on next page

3) In summer months many are focused on their vacations, graduations, weddings, family gatherings etc. We need to be reminded neglecting personal devotion is detrimental to one's spiritual relationship with God. Likewise, the church needs your physical presence , and financial obligations so it can maintain herself acceptable to God. You Elians are the church.

Therefore beloved Elians, let us take advantage of this opportunity and show our gratitude to the Living God for the multitude of blessings bestowed upon us.

In Christ,
Fr. Elias

Order of St. Ignatius



Join the *Spiritual Movement*

What is the “Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch”?

The “philanthropic arm” of the Archdiocese is an organization of men and women who maintain on an annual basis proper spiritual preparedness and financial commitment. The Order is under the authority of the Metropolitan Primate, Archdiocese Board of Trustees and the Governing Council of the Order.

Why was it created?

To establish an organization of Antiochian laity who would function at the highest level of ministry for Christ and the Church. It is a spiritual movement manifested through financial giving.

Submitted by Dona Savage

Why is St. Ignatius our patron saint?

St. Ignatius was one of the first Bishops of the See of Antioch, the spiritual source of our Archdiocese. He was a witness for Christ by his life and deeds and serves as a model for all members of The Order.

Who can become a member?

All who share a common love for Christ and his Church and are willing to work so that the Antiochian Archdiocese can continue its ministry. Each member must receive the blessing of his parish priest and be sponsored by a member of The Order. A spiritual commitment is a pre-requisite for membership in The Order.

Taken from St. Ignatius Information

St. Elias, Holy Prophet



St. Elias is honored and exemplary for:

- his mysticism, e.g. holding intimate conversation with God, hearing God's voice in the gentle breeze;
- his asceticism, e.g.. being taken by God to live in the desert, eating only food brought by ravens;
- his prophesy, e.g. being commanded by God to denounce rulers for their injustice, their infidelity, and their oppression of the people;
- his orthodoxy, e.g. following the one true God and opposing the worship of other gods;
- his miracle working, e.g. providing food in time of famine, raising the dead, dividing the waters and crossing the Jordan dryshod;
- his concern for the poor, the widow and orphan;
- his being taken up, deathless, into the heavens by God in the fiery chariot;
- his appearance with the Messiah at the holy Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8).



Religious Education

Gleanings From a Book:
Everything Tells Us About God
by Katherine Bolger Hyde:

From the first glance, this beautiful book invites engagement. The cover sets the tone for the book: it creates an expectation for beauty, variety, and a joyful reveling in God's generosity with His people. When the reader opens the book, the end paper catches their eye. It is a golden, nearly-completed puzzle. But why is that one piece missing? And what does this have to do with the title? Without reading a word, the reader is already curious and determined to know more!

The book begins by telling the reader that the world is like a giant puzzle. God made this puzzle to tell us about Himself. He designed each piece - each part of the world - to help us learn some of His secrets. When we really look at the pieces, we can learn about Him through them!

Page after engaging page, the book points out different things in our world and how God uses them to teach us about Himself. For example, the sun tells us we can't live without God because His love warms our hearts and helps us to grow closer to Him. The food that we eat reminds us that God always makes sure we have what we need, and that He always takes care of us. The animals tell us about God, too:



elephants help us see how mighty God is; hens and chicks remind us of how He cares for us; doves remind us of how the Holy Spirit brings us peace; etc.

Liv-

ia Coloji's charming illustrations simultaneously cheer the reader and invite interaction. Bright colors, playful perspectives, and soft edges all help the reader to feel the warm message of the text. Readers

can savor the images as well as the words. The first time through the book, the reader looks forward to turning the page to unveil the next illustration and the next piece of the puzzle. Every reading after that, the reader will anticipate the illustrations, revisiting old friends.

The book concludes with an answer to the reader's initial question. The missing piece in the puzzle of God's world is each of us! He gives us life so that we can be part of His puzzle. He wants to show the world part of Himself through us! When we love and serve God, we are able to be a puzzle piece to those around us!

The author's note at the end of the book offers the reader a glimpse at its backstory. The concept of this book was initially presented to Ancient Faith Publishing by Fr. Thomas Hopko of blessed memory.

SUMMER READING



He had written of a conversation with an elderly bishop on an airport run one day. As they drove, the bishop kept pointing things out in the world around them, and talking about how each thing pointed us to God. Katherine Hyde sent Fr. Thomas her rendition of his idea, but it got lost in the shuffle over the years. Fr. Thomas' family has given their permission for her to publish it, so now we can read this book and marvel at God's willingness to reveal Himself to us, one piece at a time!

The end paper at the back of the book shows the completed golden puzzle. The reader now knows why the piece was missing and can see how beautiful the puzzle is with all of its pieces in place. Glory to God for including each of us in the puzzle of His world!

"Some years ago, Fr. Tom Hopko submitted to Ancient Faith Publishing a story... In this story... a young Fr. Tom drove an elderly bishop to the airport, hoping to engage in some deep theological conversation along the way. Instead, the bishop humbly and simply pointed out how everything they passed had something to tell us about the nature of God." (a bit of the back story of the book)



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Dear parishioners,

Christ is in our midst!

For the last few months, the ladies of Saint Elias have been preparing food for our annual Middle Eastern Festival. I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Antiochian Women of our church, to thank every single one for all the hard work they do every year around this time to make our festival the best ever!

They are the heart of our church, that is why they deserve all the thanks in the world.

God bless all of you and all of us at Saint Elias Church.

LET US MAKE THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL THE BEST.

Enjoy your Summer everyone!

Your sister in Christ,
Rita Algattas
Antiochian Women's President

"The longer the teabag sits in the cup, the stronger the tea. The more God's word

saturates our minds, the clearer our grasp

on what's important to Him and the stronger our prayers." —Joni Tada



Lots of Signs!



Can you
Dabke?

Practice makes perfect! Our young adults, teens & little ones are working hard! They'll be performing dances all weekend long. Their ethnic dancing is always a huge hit at our festival.



*It's not all about the cooking!
Beautiful friendships and memories are made, right here.*

Greetings to all,

Festival food preparations have been moving at high speed with overwhelming support from all our amazing ladies.

Our baking started early May: ka'ak, maamoul, ghraybeh and harriseh, all done with lots of laughter and beautiful times had by all! Rolling grape leaves came next!



I am grateful for all those ladies who have worked year after year as well as those ladies who just joined the workforces. Less than a month away from our biggest

fund raiser, everything is going smoothly and on time.

Our ladies and parishioners have committed to helping keep our church going strong by assuring the success of our festival, a celebration of culture that includes dance, food and much more!

My ladies, it is that commitment to take charge of baking all the goods, picking 20,000 grape leaves, cleaning the storage room, and sending

emails and reminders that inspires everyone around you including myself.

Thank You!!
Your sister,
Grace



Get it rolling! Our ladies rolled 17,000 grapeleaves!



Spending time together is one of the perks!



Preparing the harriseh for baking. It's one of the favorites at our festival!



Taking time to enjoy lots of laughs while preparing grapeleaves.



Posing for a selfie in between rounds of baking sweets!

CONGRATULATIONS 2018 GRADUATES!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



Josef Akl

Graduate of Christian Brothers Academy. He will be attending the University of Rochester to study biology and pre med in the fall.



Kelsey Carter

Graduate of Onondaga Central High School. She will be attending Pratt MWP College of Art and Design studying Communication Design.



Alexis Gantos

Graduate of Jamesville DeWitt High School. She will be attending Pace University Leinhard School of Nursing in the fall.



Nicholas J. Sauro

Graduate of Westhill High School. He will be attending LeMoyne College to pursue a dual major in Business and Spanish in the fall.

Sunday School Graduates Acknowledged

Sunday School graduates Josef Akl and Nicholas Sauro are presented with Orthodox study bibles and prayer books by Father Elias Nasr and Dona Savage of the Order of St Ignatius.

The Bibles and prayer books were donated by Nabil Jabaji on behalf St. Ignatius.

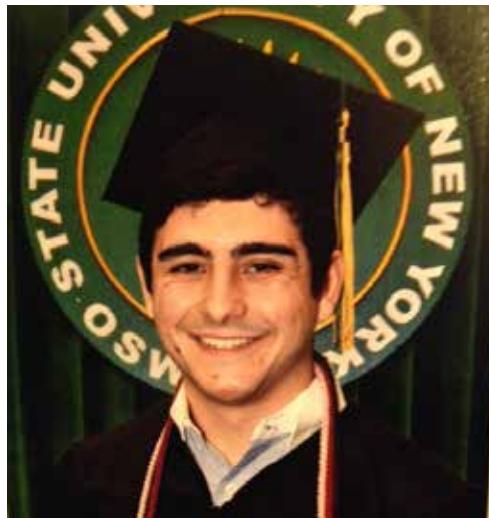


COLLEGE GRADUATES!



Nabil Akl

Graduate of Drexel University, major in Finance & Legal Studies. He will be attending Syracuse University College of Law in the fall.



Zakary George

Graduated in December with a BS in Broadcast Communications from SUNY Oswego. Zakary works as a Promotions Assistant at IHeartMedia Corporation.



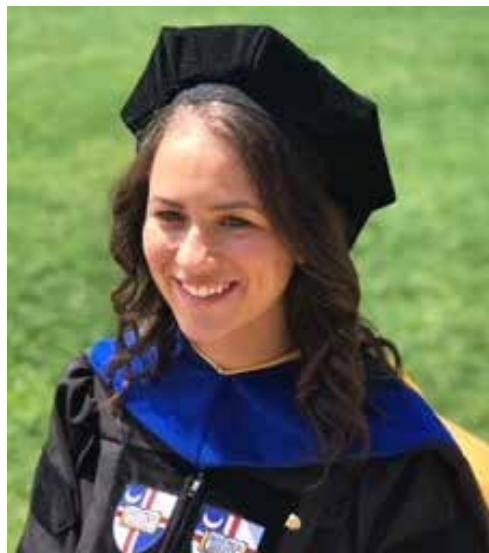
Lina Guindy

Graduate of University of New Haven with BS degrees in Forensic Science & Chemistry. Pursuing a MS at the University of New Haven Forensic Technology program, completing a graduate research assistantship in the chemistry department.



Christopher Mtanos

Graduate of Boston College where he received a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and is preparing to attend Law School.



Serene Irene Habayeb

Graduate of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC., received her PhD in Clinical Psychology. Continuing with Post Doc at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC. Department of Clinical Psychology, Autism clinic.



◀ **Christina Totari**

Received her Associates Degree in Nursing (RN) from St. Josephs College of Nursing. She will be pursuing her bachelors degree in the fall.



Leila Dominique Habayeb

Graduate of Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Sciences. She received her nursing (BSN) degree and is an RN. She will be joining the Neonatal ICU department at Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC.

Teen SOYO

Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations



Dear Parishioners,

May God's blessings be with you all.

Our teens have finalized their plans for their travel to the Parish Life Conference held in Halifax. They have been busy preparing for the Bible bowl to which we have two registered teams. We are all pretty excited to bring home an award or two or none.... but we will definitely be having a great time, meeting new people, forming new friendships, and enjoying amazing fellowship with our diocese churches.

In May, our teens offered all the mothers of our parish roses to show appreciation for all the sacrifices that mothers do, as well as hosted coffee hour.

Our teens have been preparing for the festival as well. They have been tirelessly practicing Dabke twice a week.

In addition to that, our teens have joined the parish council and parishioners to beautify our Church in preparation for the festival. Our teens will help with weeding, putting mulch on the playground, and cleaning the sheds and equipment.

I'm proud of each member of teen SOYO for always bringing forward their best attitude and the will and dedication to help where needed.

Grace Khairallah,
Teen SOYO Advisor

Our teens help other volunteers with weeding and mulching the playground and other nearby areas to prepare for the festival.



Teens show their love and appreciation on Mother's Day by offering red roses to moms following Divine Liturgy.



Mahfouz Abu-Manneh and a team of volunteers weeded and cleaned up the areas around the church. The playground was weeded and new mulch was put down.

Mahfouz and crew temporarily repaired sink hole in the parking lot. He is currently investigating the best way to permanently fix a portion of the parking lot.

You may have noticed that the church proper is a bit brighter! The LED bulbs, donated by Nassib Habayeb, have been installed.

Air conditioning - 7 new thermostats were installed- replacing old ones. Six outdated condenser fans have been replaced and new filters have been installed.

The circular stained glass window behind the altar is in need of repair. The Council is currently reviewing bids for this project.

The Building and Grounds Committee is making plans for the painting of the rectory and staining the new deck.

They are also considering options to improve the landscaping at the rectory and the planting new shrubs/plants.

Hitting the road with your family this summer? Make sure you don't forget this!



Prayer Before a Journey

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the true and living way, be thou, O Master, my companion, guide and guardian during my journey; deliver and protect me from all danger, misfortune and temptation; that being so defended by Thy divine power, I may have a peaceful and successful journey and arrive safely at my destination. For in thee I put my trust and hope, and to thee, together with thy Eternal Father, and the All-holy Spirit, I ascribe all praise, honor and glory: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We sometimes hear people say, 'I'm only human.' We hear it in songs, in conversation, perhaps in confession. It sounds like an excuse in our fallen condition not to change. Therefore, let us challenge ourselves and others to be 'truly human' rather than 'only human.' To be truly human we must commit ourselves to rise above the bodiless powers with the Theotokos who is more honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim in pursuit of the likeness of God.

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH-- St Ephraim the Syrian

Beat the heat with this cool, refreshing drink!

Prep 5 MIN	Total 5 MIN	Servings 12
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Sparkling Pear Punch



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups pear juice
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 liters ginger ale
- Sliced fresh pear

STEPS:

1. Pour pear juice into large punch bowl.
2. Add lemon juice.
3. Stir in sugar.
4. Mix in ginger ale and top with fresh sliced pear.

tablespoon.com

Many Westerners have been confused about Orthodoxy's distinct identity. In the American armed services, military identification tags of enlisted Orthodox believers once bore the inscription "Protestant."

christianitytoday.com

Did you know?

A Compilation of Psalms

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God Amen.

There is none like thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like thine. (Psalm 86:8)

For thou art great and doest wondrous things, thou alone art God. (Psalm 6:10)

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before thee. (Psalm 89:14)

Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to thee.. (Psalm 102:1)

Answer me, O LORD, for thy steadfast love is good; according to thy abundant mercy, turn to me. Hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in distress, make haste to answer me. (Psalm 9:16&17)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

I thank thee that thou hast answered me and hast become my salvation. (Psalm118:21) Amen.

+EKN

WELCOME

Stefan, Eleni & Nicholas Kontopoulos.

Welcome back Rose, Juan, Lordes & Layla Soto

CHURCHING

Laith Waleed Khabbaz son of Waleed & Rawan (Jabaji) Khabbaz

MEMORY ETERNAL

Mary El-Amir



NEVER TOO YOUNG TO SERVE!



Fayez Abu-Manneh follows the Divine Liturgy as he serves on the Altar. There's a reason they are often referred to as, Altar Angels!



Happy Anniversary!

July

William & Helen Vassily	1
Sammer & Deborah Essi	4
Salim & Laila Fashho	4
John & Cindy Abdo	12
Simon & Lily Abboud	18
Fadi & Nujoud Makhlouf	24
Tony & Karen Caporizzo	28
James & Elizabeth Gunnip	29

August

Rami Al-Khoury & Georgina Abu	
Manneh Al-Khoury	3
Elias & Anna Abboud	6
Nabil & Suad Jabaji	13
Andrew & Sally Aitchison	14
Elias & Mary Sawalha	14
Dn Nicholas & Magdalena Mahshie	15
Elias Shamieh & Gloria Dayeh	19
Khader & Noor Salameh	28
Elia & Nuha Sousou	28
Fahed & Dalal Jiries	31

September

Michael & Elaine Buza Sr.	1
Charles & Cecilia Shahin	1
Fayez & Nadia Abu Manneh	3
Andrew & Holly Kane	3
Suleiman & Nancy Dayeh	6
Brian & Joanne Craig	7
Matthew & Nisreen Tadros	17
Ronald & Rola Cotran	22
Philip & Evelyn Gabriel	28
Paul & Pamela Eadi	30

Happy Birthday!

July

Hilda Khammar	2
Olivia Nasiff	2
Gabriella Underwood	2
Shibel Jabaji	4
Sammer Essi	6
Victoria Hodge	7
Nader Jiries	7
Jacob Sousou	7
Andrew Dannoun	8
Gabrielle Gunnip	8
Faris Al-Khoury	9
Dina Arnold	11
Ronald Cotran	11
Samira Mahshie	11
Ana Totari	11
Elias Shamieh	14
Dalal Jiries	15
Elizabeth Preston	16
Sami Tawil	16
Michael Buza Sr.	17
Brian Craig	17
Nabil Jabaji	18
Laila Fashho	20
George Mounayer	20
Lalia Tadros	20
Evelyn Gabriel	21
Jacob Carter	23
Joan Jacobs	23
Nadim Nasser	24
Sally Aitchison	25
Elia Sousou	25
Soubhi Azar	26
Jonathon Underwood	27
Reema Habayeb	29
Charles Shahin	29
Edmon Salameh	30
Yousef Shamma	30
Kelsey Carter	31
Elaina El-Amir	31
Majdolin Essi-Dain	31
Mai Makhlouf	31

August

Dona Savage	1
Nabil Abdallah	2
Elaine Buza	2
Richard Cotran	5
Rima Arnold	7
Serene Habayeb,	9
Rania Habib	9
Shirley Sabbagh	11
Richard Abdo	14
Mark Khairallah	14
Nibal Saad	14
Fayez Abu-Manneh	17
Salma Abu-Manneh	17
Paul Eadi	17
Cecilia Shahin	17
Sawsan Dannoun	19
Serena Khalifeh	20
John Khammar	20
Zakaria Musallam	20
Kristen El-amir	21
Anna Abboud	23
Joshua Urbas	23
Gabrielle Tawil	24
Yvonne Atallah-Yunes	25
Antoinette Rezak	26
Noor Salameh	27
Marina Warner	27
Mazen Beshara	28
Rola Cotran	28
Scott Gantos	28
Fadi Khalifeh	28
Alexander Craig	30

September

Milia Alamir	1
Mary Sawalha	1
Bob Fedrizzi	2
Sami Makhlouf	2
Nicole Abdo	3
Merian Tomeh	3
Kathy Fedrizzi	5
Jason Abdo	6
Nadima Alamir	6
Rose Hawa	7
Issa Nesheiwat	7
Aida Souri	7
Naela Jiries	8
Nadine Habayeb	9
Simon Abboud	11
Deborah Eassa	11
Akram Tarazi	11
Magdalena Mahshie	12
Diana Souri	12
Emily Essi	13
Justin Carter	15
Nabeel Jiries	17
Pamela Eadi	18
Mila Hinnawi	18
George Dannoun	19
Salwa Habayeb	20
Labiba Tarazi	20
Tina Kissman	21
Kip Shehadi-Capps	21
Faris Sousou	22
Zakary George	23
Lyla Abboud	26
Nancy Dayeh	26
Nuha Zraik	29
Michael Abdo	30

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)

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