



THE CORNERSTONE

ST. ELIAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4988 ONONDAGA RD. SYRACUSE, NY 13215

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

OCTOBER

Sat. and Sun. October 8 and 9
Bishop Alexander's Visit

Fri. - Sun. Oct. 28-30
DOCUNY Retreat, Ottawa

Sat. Oct. 29
Haflī

NOVEMBER

Sun. Nov. 13
Thanksgiving Dinner

Sun. Nov. 20
General Assembly Meeting

DECEMBER

Antiochian Women's Ornament
Exchange- TBA

THE CORNERSTONE

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

December 15, 2016

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

FALL 2016

FALL INTO YOUR FAITH

Dear Elians:

I greet you with a holy kiss, praying that this issue of The Cornerstone will find you and your loved ones in the best of health and spirit.

The month of October is a special month in the life of our Antiochian Archdiocese in general and of our church of St. Elias in particular as we honor the vibrant youth "Teen SOYO" who indeed bring life and joy to the membership. Training our youth and supporting their various activities is our investment in the future leaders and laborers in the vineyard of our Lord. Throughout this month, our Teens will be participating in liturgical services ministries: i.e., Reading the Epistle, giving short sermonettes, ushering, collecting offertories. Our youth serve in the Altar as well as sing in the Choir. Our youth gives witness to the faith as they carry on their life outside the church. Their energy and enthusiasm must not be vanquished, rather encouraged for the Glory of God. Their activities will be printed in the bulletin.



St. Elias will be honored this month to have his grace our Bishop Alexander blessing us and feeding us spiritual food. St. Ignatius said, "Where the bishop is there is the church". What a joy for all to be gathered around our Bishop and have fellowship with him.

Again this month sets in motion other activities within the church that are essential to the welfare of the church i.e., a haflī to raise funds

Continued on next page

Fall into your Faith *continued*

for the kitchen renovation, annual Thanksgiving dinner, annual parish meeting, Christmas card project, and the annual ladies Christmas party. Orthodoxy is a way of life, where our life becomes one in God through spiritual fellowship. Our participation in the prescribed liturgical cycle of the church is essential to our spiritual nourishment. In an age of uncertainty, one thing is certain... without Christ enthroned in our life by deed, our life will not be complete, fulfilled.

Without his Holy Word, our spiritual vision will be obscured by foreign ideologies that may be destructive to our soul. That is why to be a true Orthodox Christian is to realize that you have been bought by a price "the blood of Christ".

We have belonged to Christ since the time we were baptized. Thus, it is a way of life not only Sunday's that we decide to go to church, but a way of life 24/7 to the rest of our life. In this understanding then we can realize the joy of Christ in our life as we give witness. We will then declare with St. Paul "It is no longer I but Christ who dwells with in me".

We at St. Elias invite you to share your talents for the edification of the church [the up building of the body of Christ]. Fall has begun, let us fall in place as revealed to us in the spirit.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

The unworthy,
Fr. Elias

Welcome His Grace, Bishop ALEXANDER

Saturday, October 8

Vespers @ 5:00 PM with Bishop ALEXANDER
Dinner with Parish Council and members
of the Order of St. Ignatius

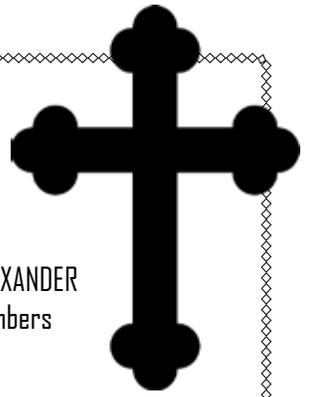
Sunday, October 9

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Luncheon hosted by the Antiochian Women
following Liturgy. Bishop ALEXANDER meets
with our children following the Luncheon

Sunday Evening-

Dinner with Bishop ALEXANDER and members
of the Order of St. Ignatius, hosted by
Mr. & Mrs. Nabil Jabaji at their residence.
(7596 Raina Road, Baldwinsville, NY)

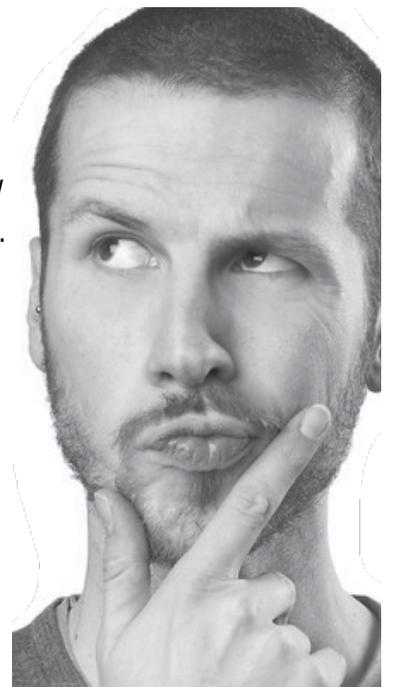
Anyone interested in joining the Order of St. Ignatius, please see Father Elias, Dona Savage or Nabil Jabaji.



Thought for the Day

"The greatest freedom is to be obedient and faithful to God. As we yield ourselves to God's love and mercy, we are liberated from the suffering of sins. No longer are we dominated by unreasonable fears, compulsions and addictions. We live in peace and unity with all people. Despair and rage pass away. Yet, these things only come when we bear the responsibilities for our own behavior, admitting our faults and receiving God's forgiveness."

-- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH



The Order of St. Ignatius



... WHEN RELIGIOUS RESIDENTS DON'T SUPPORT THEIR CHURCH

SUBMITTED BY NABIL JABAJI

A \$52,000 bill for electrical repairs had succeeded where a German bomb had failed. The Holy Trinity Church in London was to close and to wind up its affairs. Today, the church is listed for sale on the Church of England website. This statement and what follows come from an article I read in The Economist, August 13th issue.

Figures for weekly church attendance fell sharply in Britain as did church baptisms, marriages, and funerals. Deconsecrated churches are reopening as bars and restaurants. Five hundred churches were turned into luxury homes over five years in London alone. Shrinking congregations and growing repair bills are typically the fatal combination, about a quarter of Sunday services are attended by fewer than 16 parishioners. (Are you surprised? Please look around).

To maintain their buildings and meet their operation costs, and most importantly to fulfill their many programs, churches need a steady and constant supply of funds. There has to be a source.

Our Archdiocese, with all its departments, missions and programs has to be supported by a steady source. That was the idea behind the establishment of The Order of St.



Ignatius of Antioch. The Order presently supports the Heritage & Learning Center,

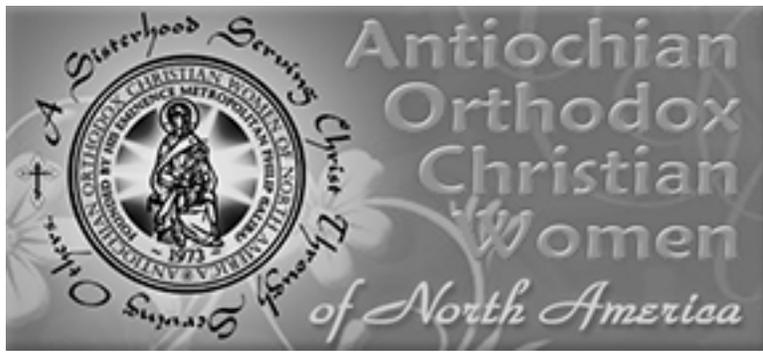
The Antiochian Village Camp with its summer camp scholarships, and various Archdiocese Departments such as: Youth Ministry, Archdiocese Administrative Services, Missions and Evangelisms and Retired Clergy Housing Allowance.

Where does this money come from? From the annual modest contributions by its members. The Archdiocese programs continue growing and expanding and hence the need for increasing resources. The Order has a responsibility to grow at the same level by increasing its committed members.

Very soon we will be visited by our Diocese Bishop, His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER. As a parish, we need to take the opportunity of inducting new members to The Order of St. Ignatius. It is an open call; please keep our church going!

WORKS OF THE ORDER IN ACTION: THEOPHANY SCHOOL

Sixteen years ago, at the tender age of twenty-one, Sonia Daly had a vision to open an Orthodox School near her hometown in Massachusetts. With her hard work and by God's grace, Theophany School opened its doors in 1997. Since then, we have been working hard to foster the intellectual, moral and social development of our students by engaging their minds, nurturing their spirits, and enriching their God-given gifts and talents through the teachings and life of the Holy Orthodox Christian Church. Our small class sizes and child-driven curriculum let us educate the whole child, thereby cultivating each child's strengths, and encouraging him or her to be an independent thinker and a thoughtful member of our School, and of his or her family and communities, ultimately guiding us all along the path to Christ. *To read the full article, visit <http://www.antiochian.org/node/29941>*



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN: GOD BLESS OUR OFFICERS

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE THEME OF OUR 2017 PROJECT:

“Strengthening the Ministries of our Church.”

This theme is a distillation of the sweeping vision which Metropolitan Joseph readily shared with us at the summer meetings in July, 2016. His Eminence spoke with farsighted boldness and passion about the many challenges and opportunities which lay before our God-protected Archdiocese. His vision is of a vigorous Church actively proclaiming our faith in Jesus Christ and lovingly ministering to the broken world around us. This is already a description of the ministries in many of our parishes, but to keep moving forward while broadening our active ministries, we must reinforce and strengthen our foundations.

The Antiochian Women are always ready to “Encourage, Support, and Fund” the godly ministries of our Archdiocese. We have proved this, time and again, with many generous fundraising projects over the past 43 years. This year’s Project gives us an opportunity to make a significant contribution to strengthen the fundamental ministries of our Archdiocese.

In the Project poster, the lights of the

Father Elias inducts: President Suad Jababi, Vice President Nuha Sousou, Secretary Dona Savage and Treasurer Mimi Daniel



cities and towns across North America represent the thousands of faithful men, women, and youth of our Archdiocese showing forth the Light of Christ through their selfless ministries within the Church and to the world around us.

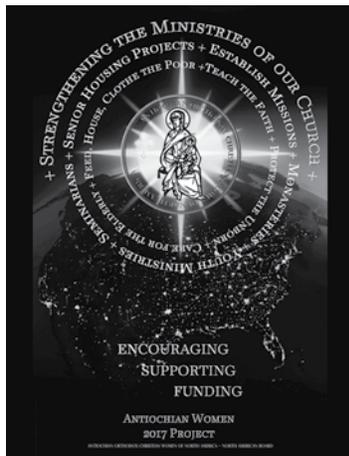
The funds we raise this year will go to strengthen the following ministries in our Archdiocese: planning senior housing projects; founding missions; supporting seminarians; encouraging youth ministries; protecting the unborn; teaching the Faith; caring for the elderly and those in prisons, nursing homes and hospitals; helping to feed, house, and clothe the poor; and inspiring monastic vocations.

As the quote from Isaiah assures us, it is God’s strength which will enable us to “make firm” the foundation of His Church. (Ephesians 2:19–20) His Eminence has given us perhaps the most far-reaching and wide-ranging challenge of any Project to date. It is a tremendous challenge. God has inspired

Sayidna Joseph with this vision; God will strengthen us to do our part. Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Thank you, in advance, for your hard work and faithfulness.

Kh. Suzanne Murphy
Vice President of the North American Board & NAB Project Coordinator



ANNUAL ORNAMENT EXCHANGE



DETAILS COMING SOON TO FACEBOOK AND SUNDAY BULLETINS!

SOYO

BY ELIZABETH GEORGE



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ!

What a wonderful beginning of the church year it has been for SOYO! Both Samira Mashie and I gave speeches about both of our experiences at Antiochian Village. She was blessed to go for both fourth session and the iconography camp. She made a beautiful

icon that she got to take home and share with all of us during her speech! We also launched our first fundraiser of the year by selling mums to the parish. A huge thank you goes out to Richard Abdo (Abdo's Garden Market) for generously donating the mums so that we could sell them! There will be



more fundraisers to come throughout the year. We have also begun a coat and sweater drive, so don't forget to bring in your gently used coats and sweaters that you don't want anymore!

October is Special Olympics month, which means the teens will be conducting donations to the Special Olympics fund at the Antiochian Village. The Antiochian Village hosts a week-long Special Olympics camp in August. Your donations and support would be very much appreciated! We also want to congratulate Maggie Mashie on being our new advisor, and we cannot wait to work with her this year!

ANTOHER GREAT YEAR UNDER OUR BELTS!

On the 86th version of the St Elias Middle Eastern Festival, our church hosted its biggest social event of the year. The culmination of strong effort and moments of joy as well as a sense of accomplishment have always surrounded this event, and it will stay in the memory of our children for as long as they live!... The art of renewing ourselves has been the aim of Christians since the coming of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. We do not surrender to death, so why should we surrender to less formidable obstacles?!...

The organizing effort spent by each of the hard working parishioners could be seen everywhere. From the smallest gourmet details such as bread quality, sandwich ingredients, middle eastern spirits, wine pairing, illustrated food signs and an extra waiting tent, to the fact that we handled big volumes efficiently and graciously

with a minimal wait time...and a big smile!... From our youngest to our oldest dancer trying to do their best, we certainly have a lot to be proud of. A big part of our success this year was the great advertising effort. This effort paired with the attention to detail on all aspects of a visitor's well being, will give us no choice but to grow in future events.



And as we grow, we will learn, adapt and change accordingly, while keeping the same goal as always: Sharing our best food, rich culture, love and joy of life with our visitors.

There is no doubt in our mind at this point that we need to hire more workforce in some places where we can, to sustain such a big event extending over four days instead of three. That being said, hard work will continue to

unite us, as we will continue to support each other, whomever the future chairs and charring committees are. The net profit from this year's festival being close to \$79,000 is certainly a great incentive to keep growing, but we never measured our success at the festival by the bottom line number!... Our pride comes from the fact that we were able to reinvent our festival, and bring some improvement to what we already knew for years to be the best ethnic festival in Syracuse by many standards... Our pride comes from each other, and we should praise and celebrate each other, as we were praised by others...

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruit you will know them"
-Matthew 7:19-20.

May our tree continue to produce and grow...

Your brothers in Christ,

Ramzi Khairallah and Wahid Akl



As our church family of St. Elias enters fall and we return to the routines of school, please continue to make our church a priority in your family life. The efforts of those who labor with Sunday School, Antiochian Women, Teen SOYO, Council, Choir, chanting and the church office all for the glory of God is a testament to the love of faith of our church family. Additionally, we appreciate the efforts of Holly Kane for the



planning of our Hafli scheduled for October 29, 2016 which will kick off the building fund for much needed kitchen renovations. Even if you have not taken a leadership role, your presence and engagement in the community is needed; for you are part of our church family and you are loved. As council president I am humbled to serve our community and appreciate all who serve the daily, weekly and long term needs of our

"In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have labored much and been true servants of God."

+ St. Dorotheos of Gaza

church. For "the little things done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saint who have labored much and been true servants of God."

Respectfully,
Ronda T. Akl
Council Chairperson



The Building Committee is working with contractors on the kitchen and hall renovation project. Details and a building fund drive will be discussed at the annual general assembly meeting.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR PARISH COUNCIL!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20.

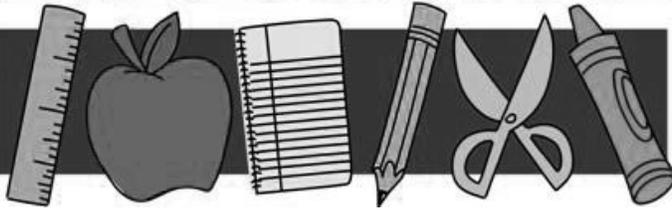
Appointed Chairperson: Sheila Mazur
Committee: Faris Sousou, Dona Savage, Father Elias and Deacon Nicholas.

If there is someone you'd like to nominate for Parish Council, please see a committee member!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Dear Parents of Children at Saint Elias,

Thanks to you, we closed out our first Sunday School class of the year with 30 registered students! If you hadn't noticed, our first Sunday was buzzing

new director of Sunday School, I can attest to how much time and energy it takes to create a Sunday school to meet our children's spiritual needs! Our team, this year, is working on new curricula, goals and expectations for each of your children.



with children, young and old. We hope you and your children experienced a great start to the Sunday school year! I know I was very excited to see our classrooms filled with students learning, laughing and proud to be a part of our church family.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our former director of Sunday School, Mrs. Maggie Mahshie for all of her hard work and dedication that she put into the classrooms. As the

As parents, and even grandparents the most important job is to bring our children to Sunday School. For many of us, the end of the work week signifies a couple of days to recuperate and relax over the weekend, before Monday rolls around, again. My Saturdays often fill up with games, birthday parties and other family obligations. Sometimes I would like Sunday to sleep in and have a quiet morning, relaxing in front of TV! But, as a mom of four children,

I know Sunday School is a crucial part of our families' spiritual lives. Please, join us Sunday, your children will be filled up with the love of the Lord. Once you make church school a habit, it becomes easy, just like anything else!

Our preschoolers are busy making crafts, playing, and learning about loving God, friends and themselves. Our kindergarteners and first graders are focusing on Happiness with God. Second through third graders will be working hard on Sharing and the Love of God. Fourth and fifth graders are focusing on living by Faith. Lastly, the middle schoolers through high schoolers will start out a unit based on Honesty.

I am always available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. As always, we welcome volunteer help in the classrooms and help for our Creative Arts Festival, coming upon us in 2017. Please feel free to contact me at nujoud@gmail.com. We are looking forward to another positive and productive year at Saint Elias! Thanks for your support and commitment to your child's spiritual education at our church!

With love in Christ,

Nujoud Makhlof



You'll find more pictures of Sunday School in action throughout the publication!



The Makhlof twins and Emily participating during a lesson about Trust in God.

Fayez Abu Manneh taking a flower from the procession of the Elevation of the Cross



St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church

Hafli!

Featuring International DJ Gabriel Massih

Saturday, October 29, 2016

6:30 pm

**Justin's Tuscan Grill . 6400 Yorktown Circle
East Syracuse, NY 13057**



**Dinner Stations: Salad . Pasta . Potato
Slow-roasted Carolina Turkey . Korean Marinated Flank Steak
Freshly-baked Artisan Bread . Dessert . Coffee & Tea**

**ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT THE
ST. ELIAS
BUILDING FUND!**

**Please RSVP to:
Holly Kane
315-415-1094**

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RAFFLE**

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\$32 (12 and under)**

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St. Elias Church
Mail to:
Holly Kane
8409 Moss Oak Tr.
Liverpool, NY 13090**

WHAT'S HAPPENING



STAY CONNECTED

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Akram, Labiba, Jabra, Joanna, Anna and Amanda Tarazi.

Fadi, Roula, Serena and Maria Khalifeh

CHURCHING

Baby Zain. Son of Emile and Laraine Najjar

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ACTION!

BAPTISMS

Samuel and Dorothea Coville, children of Adam and Charlotte Coville

Basil Qubti, son of Peter and Samia (Makhlouf) Qubti

NEW TEEN SOYO OFFICERS

President- Samira Mahshi

Vice President- Joseph Akl

Secretary- Aliah Mahshie

Treasurer- Estelle Khairallah

Historian- Faris Khoury

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES?

Please help us keep our records current by contacting Dona Savage at steliasny@aol.com!

(Ascribed members of St. Elias only, please!)



Cailie, Maria, Mazen and Alaina learning more about Abraham and Issac



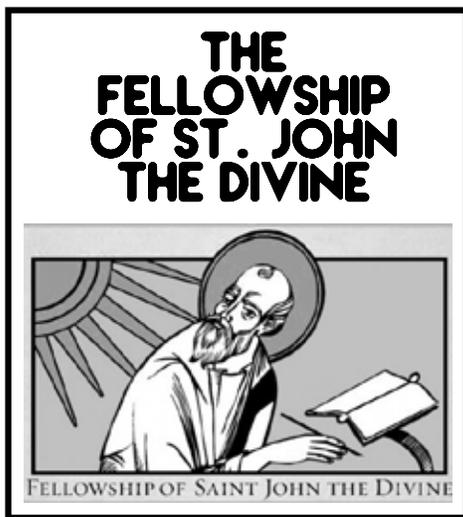
The children partaking in The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Solomon and Sam in Mrs. Dayeh's first grade class



Sydney and friends working at reading group



SHEILA MAZUR, PRESIDENT

As the fall begins and children are back at school, families are traveling less, St. John the Divine is looking to sponsor family oriented activities. Along with some ideas in the works, we will be needing volunteers to help decorate our church for the holiday season. Every year we get more organized and most of the decorations have been labeled and stored, ready to be used in the designated areas of our church. We hope for your continued support. Plans to decorate the church will be in the beginning of December. Please watch the bulletin and emails for the upcoming date. Thank you for your support.

A LITTLE SOMETHING WITH YOUR MORNING COFFEE!

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Arising from sleep I thank thee, O holy Trinity, because of the abundance of thy goodness and long-suffering thou wast not wroth with me, slothful and sinful as I am; neither hast thou destroyed me in my transgressions: but in thy compassion raised me up, as I lay in despair; that at dawn I might sing the glories of thy Majesty. Do thou now enlighten the eyes of my understanding, open my mouth to receive thy words, teach me thy commandments, help me to do thy will, confessing thee from my heart, singing and praising thine All-holy Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN DONA SAVAGE

The Antiochian Women of St. Elias Church elected a new executive in August, 2016. The new executive committee consists of Suad Jabaji, President; Nuha Sousou, Vice President; Dona Savage, Secretary and Mimi Daniel, Treasurer and were sworn into office on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

St. Elias Church of Ottawa will host the DOCUNY Fall Retreat on October 28-30, 2016 for all who are members of the Diocese.

On November 13, 2016 The Antiochian Women of Syracuse will again host the annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Luncheon following Liturgy for all of our parishioners. Proceeds will go towards the Ladies Project which is "Strengthening The Ministries of Our Church".

The Ladies will host our annual Ornament Exchange in December. A date and more information to be announced.

We encourage all women of the parish to participate in our meetings and functions. It is a very rewarding experience.

DOECUNY Fall Gathering

The Church: A Hospital for Our Souls
October 28-30 . St. Elias Ottawa, ON
Special Guest: Father Iakovos of
Simonopetra Monastery on Mount Athos



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
Lina Guindy	4
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
Khalil Salameh	22
Louis Rezak	22
Edward Wazen	22
Cameron Aitchison	23
Salim Fashho	24
Annette Habayeb	24
Renee Underwood	24
Michael Beshara	25
Wahid Akl	27
Cathy Khammar	27
Rebecca Husen	27
Debra George	28
Anna Tarazi	29

October

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



November

Karim Habayeb	1
Danna Sawalha	1
Andrew Mullen	2
Charles Gabriel	3
Taghreed Tadrus	4
Kyle Fedrizzi	7
Fadi Makhlof	7
Louise Gantos	8
Evon DeRoberts	11
Jane Essi	11
Christine Wachna	12
Jeries Sourì	16
Lindsay Wachna	17
Kara Gantos	18
Cullen Kissman	18
Lufti Salloum	18
Kamal Awwad	19
Grace Alamir	19
Sara El-Amir	21
Philip Gabriel	21
Ziad Habayeb	23
Maya Beshara	24
Robert Cotran	25
Christine Gantos	26
Gloria Abdo	28
Samir Tadrus	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

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

December

Fr. Elias Nasr	2
Deacon Nicholas Mahshie	2
Gloria Dayeh	2
Ludwig Khoury	2
Jaiden Abdo	3
Mikaila Abdo	3
Yvonne Abdo	3
Alexandra Bronchetti	3
Nick Tadros	3
Edward Sabbagh	4
Jacqueline Eadi	6
Nabeeha Mahshie	7
Amanda Tarazi	7
Phillip Kissman	9
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

December

Lalia & Samih Tadros	6
Joan & Joseph Jacobs	9
Mazen & Mary Abdulky Beshara	13
Louis & Toni Rezak	15
Albert & Tamar Totari	15
George & Mary El-Amir	16
Souhel & Vicki Shehadeh	16
Diana & Nabil Abdallah	26
Nassib & Reema Habayeb	27
Paul & Pamela Eadi	30

THE CORNERSTONE

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