

# THE CORNERSTONE

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church  
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**SUMMER 2020**

## JULY

July 10-11 Middle Eastern  
Festival On The GO!  
July 20 - Feast of St. Elias

## AUGUST

August 6 - Transfiguration  
August 15 - Dormition  
August 29 - Beheading of Prophet  
John the Baptist

## SEPTEMBER

September 8 - Birth of Holy  
Theotokos  
September 14 - Elevation of the  
Cross

TIMES OF SERVICES TO BE ANNOUNCED.

## THE CORNERSTONE

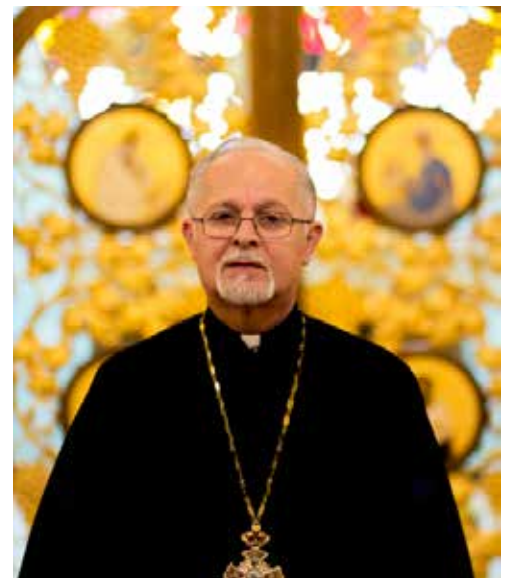
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## Taking Hope in the Risen Lord

Dear Elians,

I greet you and your loved ones with a “Holy Kiss” praying all are in the best of health and spirit as each face a multitude of challenges as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. This pandemic has affected changes in our normal personal life including our home of St. Elias. We pray that our Lord will remove this evil pandemic from the world.

Having said that, as your pastor, I too have similar experiences in trying to adapt to this new way of life of mask wearing, social distancing and limitations of pastoral ministry. Hard as it may, I take hope in the Risen Lord that he will guide us through the Holy Spirit to overcome our obstacles and challenges. I thank God for the invention of electronic medium by which we are able to communicate with each other and to learn that our faithful has increased their prayers at home. The unity of our prayers at church and at home is indeed miraculous in subduing our internal fear



of the unknown. But what is known, returning to the Lord with a pure heart, enables us to gaze beyond the evil Covid and the like, beyond the issue of racism protests & destructive riots into the bliss of heavenly Jerusalem in the ever presence of the Living Lord.

One such individual who had great impact on our family of St. Elias is our Patron Prophet Elias. His zeal and love for the living God whom he served comforted him in his loneliness, nourished him in his hunger,

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strengthened him in his weakness, empowered him in his fear and saved him from death. Let us emulate the zeal of our patron whom we invoke in prayer to intercede before the living Savior on our behalf so that we may be successful in our inspired activities such as the Curbside Middle Eastern Festival.

In the meantime, I along with Parish Council ask you to support our co-chairs Nabeel Algattas and Rami Al-Khoury in this activity. We are grateful for their commitment and sacrifice of time and energy in organizing this forth coming activity.

As bills need to be paid, we urge you if you are able to mail your offertory to church. If you have health issues, please stay and pray at home. Services are livestreamed. If you need the Sacrament of Holy Communion or in need special prayer or have specific need, please call me at 315-491-8266.

We at St. Elias are one family of Christ and during this pandemic period let us lay aside any feeling that may separate us spiritually from one another and let us be emboldened in genuine Christian love forbearing one another.

May our heavenly Father protect each and every one of you from all harm.

In Christ,  
Fr. Elias

# Order of St. Ignatius

Submitted by Dona Savage



*Let us commend all our lives to Christ... St. Ignatius said, "A Christian does not control his own life, but gives his whole time to God!"*

*There will not be a presentation of Bibles for Sunday School High School graduates due to the fact that there aren't any graduates this year.*

*The Church Services have been live streamed on Facebook due to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) and has been limited to not more than 10 people until recently when the mandate from the state and county was changed to 33% capacity or 50 people.*

The Order of St. Ignatius supports: College Conference, SOYO Leadership Training, the Camping Scholarship Program, IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities, Project Mexico and Retired Clergy Housing Fund, among other programs.

Through the Order of St. Ignatius, you help build the foundation and provide the essential tools of knowledge, relationships and memories that help our children remain steadfast in their Orthodox faith.

For less than a cup of coffee a day you can be a part of supporting this Ministry.

The 3 Tenets & Governing Principles of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch are: 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. – Saint Ignatius of Antioch

To join the Order please see Father Elias or Nabil Jabaji.



This year's lawn signs can be seen on many corners in CNY! These, along with social media posts on Facebook and Instagram have helped get the word out!

# Parish Council

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ –

These have been very challenging times – making it harder to deal with our physical distance from church. But even in these challenges, we can and should find comfort through our faith. Take the quote above. Jesus reminds his disciples that he is with them always, providing comfort as they start to “make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19).

These comforting words from Jesus don't mean that we shouldn't be concerned.

During these difficult times, it is natural to have certain anxiety or worries. But we must take all the precautions and guidelines necessary to not only protect ourselves, but also to protect one another. Yet as Orthodox Christians, we shouldn't allow fear to become a guiding force for our actions. We need to remember that God is with us and will always remain close to us no matter what uncertainty we face. Throughout history, we, as the faithful, have faced countless dangers that have wiped out large portions of the population to wars, famine, pestilence and other natu-

ral and man-made threats. Even through all of that, Orthodox Christians have always found their greatest source of comfort, support and strength in their faith and in the assurance that God is with us, always!

God has not forgotten or abandoned us. We do not need to face the mystery of this world, with all its struggles and uncertainties, by ourselves for God is with us! As we hear all the uncertain, disheartening, and frightful news about COVID-19 and think about all the devastating social and financial

“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:20

consequences this virus will leave behind, we must balance the ‘bad news’ with

the good news of our Faith.

We have re-opened St Elias – allowing up to 50 parishioners to attend our services in person. While we realize that many of our high risk or senior parishioners may not feel comfortable attending services yet, we are still one family and here for each other. If you are comfortable, please visit our website or reach out to Dona to sign up to attend services.

We are going to continue to livestream services on the SaintElias

SundayLiturgy Facebook page; additionally, there are online resources on the Antiochian Archdiocese website ([www.antiochian.org/liturgicday](http://www.antiochian.org/liturgicday)) that you can reference. And as always, if you need anything, please reach out to Father or to any parish council member; while we are trying to stay safe, we are one family and are here for you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mai Makhlof  
Council President

## Thought for the Day



“Christ, invisible to the bodily eye, manifests Himself on earth clearly through His Church... The Church is the Body of Christ both because its parts are united to Christ through His divine mysteries and because through her Christ works in the world.”  
-- St. John of San Francisco

# The Power of FAITH and TRUST During the Pandemic

by Victoria Hodge, RRT

I was a junior in high school when I started imagining an occupation for myself. The aptitude tests the guidance counselor gave me put me either in a career of music or working in healthcare. I was hesitant to take the music route, not fully believing I had the talent. I did however feel certain I wanted to help others.

Through a friend of the family, I was introduced to Respiratory Therapy. At the time, it was a new profession. I attended SUNY @ Upstate here in Syracuse immediately after graduating high school and have been practicing as a Respiratory Therapist ever since – 41 years!

When it became apparent the Coronavirus was indeed a worldwide pandemic, the medical community had to pull together like never before. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center here in Syracuse NY, where I've worked for the past 21 years, went into high alert/crisis mode. There was a call for action to deploy certain "front line personnel" to the hardest hit area in the country – New York City. I KNEW this was where I needed to be. I felt it. Yet the possible ramification of such an undertaking was on the other side of the scale.

This is where my daily practice of prayer came in BIG time. I learned that praying when I really want

something or really need an answer or really need to get out of a jam – is a complete shot in the dark. I call it "foxhole praying". However, because I have a practice of daily prayer and meditation, I have IMPROVED my conscious contact with God. I am building a relationship with God. This has helped me when I am in doubt, when I don't know what the answer is, when I need guidance. Prayer, like most things, becomes easier with practice. When I reach out for help, I know the Hand of God is always there! I have faith and TRUST that the right thing will happen.

The answer came – and I made the decision to go to New York City. I volunteered and was welcomed there with open arms at the Manhattan VA. What I encountered there was nothing short of a nightmare. A horrible situation. The city of New York that I knew and loved was now unrecognizable. Empty streets. Doors permanently closed to restaurants and shops. Galleries lifeless. Darkness everywhere. Only the homeless and health care workers/ first responders walking the streets. Passing an

occasional dog walker while on a trip to the local Walgreens was as close to normal as it got.

The hospitals were overflowing with the worst cases of the virus. While I was there, Presbyterian Hospital had 238 ventilators running! That is just unheard of. And new cases coming in every day. It sometimes seemed like it would never end. Here I was, in what felt like a war zone. I was working 13-hour days. Day after day. Returning to my hotel only to crash. Sleep. Wake up. Work. Repeat. My body ached. My mind was whirling. But my faith prevailed.

When I reached a point where it all felt overwhelming, I started to feel helpless. But again, this is where my FAITH in God, MY GOD, carried me. I hung on to this: WE WILL RECOVER. THERE IS HOPE. And it is all possible through the higher power and love of God. RECOVERY is possible for those who BELIEVE.

This experience, among other things, has awakened a better understanding of how much God is in my life. Everyday. I am never alone. And I trust always that He has my back.



VICTORIA AND COWORKERS WERE SUITED UP WITH PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE) AS THEY WORKED TO SAVE LIVES.



VETERANS AFFAIRS BUS WITH FRONT LINE WORKERS ROLLS INTO MANHATTAN.

# Caps Off to our 2020 Graduates



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



**Elaina El-Amir**

High School: Fayetteville-Manlius  
College: LemMoyne College  
Course of Study: Physician  
Assistant Direct Admit 3+2  
program



**Edgar Daoud**

High School: Fayetteville-Manlius  
College: Onondaga Community  
College  
Course of Study: Engineering



**Grace George**

High School: Fabius-Pompey  
College: LeMoyne College  
Course of Study: Undecided

## COLLEGE GRADUATES



**Faris Al-Khoury**

SUNY Upstate Medical  
University  
Degree: B.S. Medical Technol-  
ogy  
Next: Medical Laboratory Sci-  
entist Hematology-Oncology  
Associates of CNY



**Elias Gantos**

Clarkson University  
Degree: B.S. Engineering and  
Management, minor in Project  
Management  
Next: Sales Engineer for SMC  
Corporation of America in  
Boston Office



**Thomas Kane**

Rochester Institute of Tech-  
nology (RIT)  
Degree: B.S. Business Adminis-  
tration-Management  
Next: MBA Program at RIT in  
Business Management, minor  
in Marketing

## COLLEGE GRADUATES



**Olivia M. Sauro**

Niagara University  
 Degree: B.S. Political Science,  
 minors in History and Middle  
 Eastern Studies  
 Next: Begin preparing for  
 graduate studies while resid-  
 ing in Buffalo, NY.



**Trevor David Rott**

Setnor School of Music in the  
 College of Visual and Perform-  
 ing Arts at Syracuse Univer-  
 sity.  
 Degree: BMus in Composition  
 Studies  
 Next: Seeking opportunities in  
 the industry

## PRAYER AFTER STUDY

I Thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom. You have gladden-  
 ed my heart with the knowl-  
 edge of truth. I entreat You,  
 Lord, help me always to do Your  
 will. Bless my soul and body, my  
 words and deeds. Enable me to  
 grow in grace, virtue and good  
 habits, that Your name may be  
 glorified, Father, Son and Holy  
 Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

.....  
 Parishioners- If you have not been  
 receiving email from St. Elias and  
 would like to, please give your  
 current email to Dona Savage.  
 .....

.....  
 Also, if you have moved we need  
 to update your address and phone  
 number. We are attempting to  
 update our database.  
 .....

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.....

### July

Robert & Margarette Furbeck	1
William & Helen Vassily	1
Sammer & Deborah Essi	4
Salim & Laila Fashho	4
John & Cindy Abdo	12
Simon & Lily Abboud	18
Fadi & Nujoud Makhlof	24
Michel & Rima Nasr	2
Tony & Karen Caporizzo	28
Khader & Samira Fashho	28

### August

Rami & Georgina Abu Manneh Al-Khoury	3
Elias & Anna Abboud	6
Nabil & Suad Jabaji	13
Andrew & Sally Aitchison	14
Elias & Mary Sawalha	14
Deacon Nicholas & Magdalena Mahshie	15
Elias Shamieh & Gloria Dayeh	19
Elia & Nuha Sousou	28

### September

Michael & Elaine Buza Sr.	1
Charles & Cecilia Shahin	1
Fayez & Nadia Abu Manneh	3
Andrew & Holly Kane	3
Suleiman & Nancy Dayeh	6
Brian & Craig	7
Thomas & Rana Madden III	7
Samir & Laurie Tawil	8
Majd & Layla Elias	12
Matthew & Nisreen Tadros	17
Ronald & Rola Cotran	22
Philip & Evelyn Gabriel	28
Paul & Pamela Eadi	30

# BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS



## 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
Faris Al-Khoury	9
Ronald Cotran	11
Samira Mahshie	11
Ana Totari	11
Elias Shamieh	14
Dalal Jiries	15
Elizabeth Preston	16
Michael Buza Sr.	17
Brian Craig	17
Edgar Daoud	18
Nabil Jabaji	18
Laila Fashho	20
George Mounayer	20
Lalia Tadros	20
Evelyn Gabriel	21
Jacob Carter	23
Joan Jacobs	23
Sally Aitchison	25
Elia Sousou	25
Soubhi Azar	26
Jonathon Underwood	27
Reema Habayeb	29
Charles Shahin	29
Yousef Shamma	30
Kelsey Carter	31
Elaina El-amir	31
Majdolin Essi-Dain	31
Mai Makhlof	31

## August

Dona Savage	1
Nabil Abdallah	2
Elaine Buza	2
Richard Cotran	5
Joseph Guindy	6
Serene Habayeb	9
Rania Habib	9
Shirley Sabbagh	11
Richard Abdo	14
Mark Khairallah	14
Fayez Abu-Manneh	17
Salma Abu-Manneh	17
Paul Eadi	17
Cecilia Shahin	17
Sawsan Dannoun	19
Rihab Daoud	20
Serena Khalifeh	20
John Khammar	20
Kristen El-amir	21
Anna Abboud	23
Joshua Urbas	23
Gabrielle Tawil	24
Yvonne Atallah-Yunes	25
Samir Tawil	25
Antoinette Rezak	26
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 Makhlof	2
Nicole Abdo	3
Merian Tomeh	3
Kathy Fedrizzi	5
Jason Abdo	6
Nadima Alamir	6
Layla Elias	7
Rose Hawa	7
Issa Nesheiwat	7
Aida Sourì	7
Naela Jiries	8
Nadine Habayeb	9
Simon Abboud	11
Deborah Eassa	11
Akram Tarazi	11
Magdalena Mahshie	12
Diana Sourì	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
Kip Shehadi-Capps	21
Faris Sousou	22
Zakary George	23
Lyla Abboud	26
Nancy Dayeh	26
Nuha Zraik	29
Michael Abdo	30

## Memory Eternal

**Yvonne Ayoub**

**Joseph Jacobs**