

THE CORNERSTONE

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
4988 Onondaga Road Syracuse, NY 13215
315.488.0388 sainteliasny.com steliasny@aol.com

JULY

- 14-17 St. Elias Middle Eastern Festival
19 Evening Divine Liturgy for Prophet Elias 6 PM

AUGUST

- 1-15 Dormition Fast
5 Evening Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration 6 PM
15 Dormition
27 Blue Dress Silver Tie Gala
29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Evening Divine Liturgy for the Birth of the Theotokos 6PM
13 Evening Divine Liturgy for The Elevation of the Cross 6PM

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

Website- Lina Abu Manneh

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Send articles, photos or questions to:

steliasny@aol.com 315.488.0388

Summer 2022

The Possibilities are Limitless

Dear Elians,

I greet you and your loved ones with a “Holy Kiss” praying that all are in the best of health and spirit as the excitement of our in-person annual Middle Eastern Festival is filling the atmosphere.

Beloved, the month of July is very special for our family of St. Elias as we celebrate the Feast of our Patron St. Elias with a Festival that has become over the years a prominent event in our community attracting patrons, family, friends, and visitors from diverse areas. It is an opportunity for us to gather together in Christian fidelity and spirit to nurture and strengthen one another as a cohesive family. For us, our faith and culture cannot be separated. It is who we are, and we are very proud to be a beacon of harmony among brethren in Syracuse. Laboring together and sharing the burden unites us with one another in the successful achievement of our goal. With the Festival being “in person” after two years, it is sure to be successful by the grace of God. We thank God that the pandemic is behind us and we have returned to normalcy.



That being said, normalcy does not eliminate challenges of the church. With so much economic uncertainties in the world, the threat of violence, financial hardships, wars, etc., we are only certain that by holding unto our faith and one another we can overcome our hardship. Through a prayerful life and dynamic vibrant faith, we will be granted the grace of the Holy Spirit to experience inner peace. Active participation of Liturgical services will illumine our mind, heart and soul. It is in the church that we have all mechanism needed for realization in our life. Hence, transfiguring our life

Continued on next page

into a life of holiness and righteousness, thus reflect the true image & likeness of God in us.

Beloved, for the past 13 years as your pastor I have been witness to the change of dynamics of our family. We are welcoming new membership either by birth or relocation to our area. We pray that all will find spiritual and social fulfillment at St. Elias, especially as we host the 2023 Parish Life Conference in Syracuse July 6-9th with our beloved Metropolitan JOSEPH Presiding with his Grace our Bishop ALEXANDER. I am grateful to Anna Jabaji for chairing the event.

Summer for some is vacation time, but at St. Elias is a time to organize for the next ecclesiastical year: Church School, Teen SOYO, Ladies Auxiliary. With togetherness, the sky is the limit on what we can accomplish for the glory of God.

As for now my beloved faithful, I look forward to seeing you all laboring, dancing and celebrating with joy. On behalf of the Parish Council, I want to thank Dn. Nicholas for chairing the Festival and I thank everyone who labored and those who are stepping up in assisting in the areas of need and in support of the Festival.

In Christ,
Fr. Elias



THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

Submitted by
Dona Savage

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER?

Some two thousand years ago, our Lord Jesus Christ sat on a hillside with His disciples preaching to more than five thousand people. As the day progressed people who said, “We are hungry”, approached the disciples. Yes, these people had need.

The disciples asked Jesus what to do. Jesus said to them, “You feed them”. It was St. Philip who said to Jesus, “Where will we get the money to feed these people?” Jesus then told them to go out among the people and see what they had to offer. There was one boy who had five loaves and two fish. He gave this to the disciples, keeping none for himself. The disciples took this meager offering to Jesus who blessed it and then told the disciples to distribute it to the people. The people were all fed as the food was miraculously multiplied. There was even some left over.

Thirty years ago, the hierarchy of our Archdiocese was approached with many needs of its people. I don’t want to be presumptuous but maybe what happened next went something like this.

The hierarchy approached God saying, “The people have needs. What should we do?” God said to them, “You meet their needs”. It is no coincidence that it was Metropolitan Philip who said, just as his patron saint said so many years ago, “Where will we get the money to meet their needs?” And just as the Lord answered St. Philip two thousand years ago, He likewise answered our Metropolitan Philip, “Go to the people and see what they have to offer.”



Thus, Metropolitan Philip went to the people and asked for their offerings. And people gave. This was the beginning of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. And people, including

you, continue to give your offerings to the Church. The Church brings these offerings before God to be blessed and then distributes them to meet the needs of its people.

We are both humbled and grateful to join such an organization and look forward to serving Christ with you, my brothers and sisters, in the years to come.

Invitation to membership to “The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch” packet.

*By Danna Lewis- St. Stephens, Hiram, Ga
Excerpt from and address on the eve of her induction into The Order*

June, 2003

SACRIFICE... THE ULTIMATE ACT OF LOVE

*Sermonette written and delivered
by Mai Makhoul during
Antiochian Women Month*

Brothers and sisters in Christ.

In this time of Great Lent, when we begin to contemplate the Passion of our Lord, his betrayal, cru-



cifixion, and resurrection – we should also remember the important role that the women played in the early days of the Orthodox church. In his gospel, Saint John writes “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene”. In that moment when Jesus was about to fulfill his greatest act on Earth, the early female followers of Christ were right by His side, fulfilling their ministry. They were not afraid – and willing to sacrifice for Jesus and their faith.

How many of us can say the same? Sacrifice is hard – and yet, it is the ultimate act of love. Today’s Gospel reading is a good example of that. “And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

This is one of my favorite passages that we hear during Great Lent. How faithful is the paralytic, who is only looking to get closer to Jesus. He isn’t bitter or lamenting his disability. How resourceful are the men, removing part of the roof to help him get to Jesus. We don’t even know if these men are friends or family of the paralytic, and yet instead of focusing on themselves, they sacrifice their time and their ability to get close to Jesus to instead help the paralytic. This passage serves as an example of how we as Orthodox should be preparing ourselves. We must come to Christ, willing to sacrifice in support of our faith.

You could say that being a woman is synonymous with sacrifice. Whether it is having and caring for children, taking care of elderly parents, maintaining a home and family while working – it is hard to be a woman, particularly in our culture. The sacrifices that we women face are specific to each of us, personal to what each are dealing with in their lives. But Jesus calls every one of us to become a living martyr by dying to our sinfulness, to turn away from corruption. We may not want to hear it, but if we want to share in the joy of Christ’s resurrection, we must first participate in the struggle, pain, and sacrifice. Suffering, disease and death are not punishments from God, and sacrifice is not limited to a select few.

Sacrifice is hard. Last week, I wanted my mother to be in church to celebrate with the other women at St Elias. She has been so dedicated to the Ladies organization, sacrificing much of her time in support of our community. She isn’t the only one. But bringing my mother to church was hard. It was hard for me, trying

to get her ready and safely to church; it was even harder for her dealing with her disease. It would have been easier for her to stay home – and I certainly would have made it to church on time – but that goes against our faith. Sacrifice with a pure heart is core to who we are as Orthodox Christians. Like the men helping the paralytic, we are called to help each other.

It is hard to see those around you that don’t heed this same call to sacrifice. It is frustrating and makes you want to stop the sacrifices that you do. But we are a family and must come together in joy, to serve faithfully, to laugh and love one another and our Lord. Is the sacrifice hard – at times, it is. Many of us have very full plates between jobs, family and other commitments. Would it be easier to focus on yourself instead – yes. But remember, sacrifice is the ultimate act of love. As God, Christ knew He had come to earth to die for us and in dying to rise from the grave – but even with this knowledge, He felt the heaviness of this sacrifice. On the day before His crucifixion, He said: Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour (John 12:27). Through your own sacrifices, you move closer to God, emulating Christ’s example.

There is a lot that goes into taking care of this parish, and it’s not just tied to the festival. There is room for all – and a need for all the talents that exist at St. Elias. Don’t be afraid of sacrifice. Please come take your place next the cross of our risen Lord to be with Him and to serve Him; your efforts and sacrifices will not be forgotten.



HATS OFF TO OUR 2022 GRADUATES!

College Graduates



ALEXIS GANTOS

Alexis graduated with honors from the University at Buffalo with a BS Degree in public health. She plans to return home and find a position where she can continue to apply her passion for helping the community.



MATTHEW GRIFFIN

Matthew graduated from Ithaca College, Summa Cum Laude, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Management. He is a three-time Academic All-American Wrestler.

High School Graduates



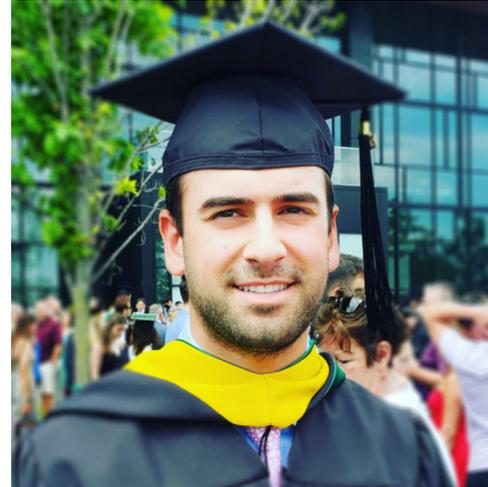
SERENA KHALIFEH

Serena graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius High School and will be attending University of Rochester in the fall, majoring in Biology along the premedical track



TOMMY KANE

Tommy Kane graduated with highest honors with an MBA in Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology. He has accepted a position with NBT Bank as a Management Development Associate.



NICHOLAS SAURO

Nicholas graduated from Le Moyne College with a dual BS degree in Business Leadership and Marketing. He begins the MBA Marketing Program at Le Moyne this fall and has accepted a marketing position with the college.



ASPEN (GABRIELLA) UNDERWOOD

Aspen graduated from Liverpool High School as a member of the National Honor Society and will be attending SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the fall.

St. Elias
**Middle Eastern
 Festival**
 Near
 OCC
JULY 14-17
 SyracuseMidEastFest.com

After a two-year hiatus from our traditional-style festival, we are excited to be offering our full venue with a few new players on the menu!

Please welcome BOWLS to our menu! Visitors will have a chance to try beef and chicken shawarma, gyro and falafel bowls! Each main item is served over either heshweh or tabbouleh and topped with ingredients you would normally find in a platter or sandwich. We think they'll be a huge hit!

Also making its appearance are Za'atar Fries! We will toss our crispy fries with traditional za'atar, offering a twist a traditional snack.

And finally, if you're a spiked seltzer fan, our beverage tent has you cov-



Written by Nujoud Makhlouf

May was a month of celebrating mothers on their special day. We were uplifted when we participated in a virtual retreat with Father Paul Abernathy. Father Paul shared with our parish his meaning of love and giving. Through outreach, Father Paul is making a truly miraculous impact in the daily lives of those in need in the city of Pittsburgh, focusing on the African American community. After

ered! You'll be able to enjoy a new cool, crisp beverage this year!

While all of the new introductions are worth noting, what is most important to share is the gratitude to all who have been laboring for the past several weeks! It has truly been a 'labor of love' and we are forever grateful for all of your efforts.

There are still opportunities to share your talents and pick up a shift or two during the course of the four days. Please see or call Kathy Fedrizzi or Reema Habayeb or the church office if you are interested in being part of our festival!

Let us not forget the roots of our festival. Our ancestors gathered as a church family in celebration of our revered, St. Elias. This man who saw God, was a wonderworker and zealot for faith in God.

Troparion Tone 4

O angelic of body, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, the forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ, the venerable and glorious Elias, you sent grace from on high to Elisha to dispel sicknesses and purify lepers. Wherefore, he overflows with healing to those who honor him.

our morning talk with Father Abernathy, we joined many volunteers, and made baklava for the festival. We ended our day together by having brunch that was homemade by some dads of Saint Elias. They made such a delicious spread for us to enjoy and we hope it continues as a tradition here at Saint Elias! Thank you dads for all of your hard work and support!

June has been busy with festival preparations. The Ladies of Saint Elias have been busily planning for our annual Saints Day Festival. It's hard



**2023
 PARISH LIFE
 CONFERENCE
 COMES TO
 ST. ELIAS!**

We are proud and honored to be hosting the Parish Life Conference here in Syracuse next year. Also, we are most honored to have Metropolitan Joseph, as well as Bishop Alexander, attending.

Please save the dates of July 6 -9, 2023!



to believe that it's been two years since we have had a traditional festival because of Covid, the outpouring of support to get it done has been tremendous! This July, we are so excited to be fully up and running. The community is looking forward to the dancing and the live music, the church tours and the delicious food. We know it's going to be better than ever with the grace of God! We have so much to look forward to, gathering in fellowship, and working in the name of the Lord.

FATHER'S DAY BBQ!

Dads and their families and friends were treated to a beautiful and bountiful celebration on Father's Day!

The afternoon was filled with laughter, dancing and wonderful food, but most of all, it was a perfect way

to acknowledge all of the hard work and dedication that these men in our community provide! A big shout out to all of the gents who go above and beyond the call of duty. May God grant you many, many years of good health and happiness!



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 Makhlof	24
Michel & Rima Nasr	26
Tony & Karen Caporizzo	28
Khader & Samira Fashho	28

August

Rami & Georgina Al-Khoury	3
Elias & Anna Abboud	6
Martin Zablah & Alysse Dowdle	8
Nabil & Suad Jabaji	13
Andrew & Sally Aitchison	14
Elias & Mary Sawalha	14
Dn. Nicholas & Magdalena Mahshie	15
Charles & Eva Phillips	16
Elias & Gloria Shamieh	19

September

Michael & Elaine Buza	1
Charles & Cecilia Shahin	1
Andrew & Holly Kane	3
Suleiman & Nancy Dayeh	6
Brian & Joanne Craig	7
Thomas & Rana Madden	7
Samir & Laurie Tawil	8
Majd & Layla Elias	12
Matthew & Nisreen Tadros	17
Ronald & Rola Cotran	22

Marriages

Angelo Cangialosi, Jr. and Salwa Habayeb
May 21, 2022

Abeer Tadus and Abdallah Khader
June 2, 2022.

Churchings

James Habib
Parents: Gaston & Grace Habib

Baptisms

Salim George Fashho - May 22, 2022
Parents: Khader Fashho & Samira Fashho

Ziad 'Raphael' Nadim Khabbaz - May 28, 2022
Parents: Waleed Khabbaz and Rawan Jabaji

Theodore Rashdi
Parents: Navidi Rashdi & Dena Khoury

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
Navid Rashidi	16
Michael Buza Sr.	17
Brian Craig	17
Edgar Daoud	18
Nabil Jabaji	18
Laila Fashho	20
George Mounayer	20
LaliaTadros	20
Evelyn Gabriel	21
Jacob Carter	23
Eliana Makhlof	23
Sally Aitchison	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
Andreh Alamir	2
Elaine Buza	2
Richard Cotran	5
Serene Habayeb	9
Rania Habib	9
Shirley Sabbagh	11
Richard Abdo	14
Mark Khairallah	14
Eva Phillips	16
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
Urbas Joshua	23
Tawil Gabrielle	24
Yvonne Atallah-Yunes	25
Samir Tawil	25
Antoinette Rezak	26
Marina Warner	27
Rola Cotran	28
Scott Gantos	28
Fadi Khalifeh	28
Alexander Craig	30
Dena Khoury	31

September

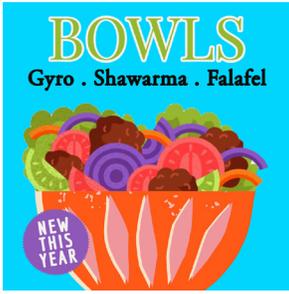
Milia Alamir	1
Mary Sawalha	1
Bob Fedrizzi	2
Sami Makhlof	2
Nicole Abdo	3
Merian Tomeh	3
Kathy Fedrizzi	5
Nadima Alamir	6
Layla Elias	7
Rose Hawa	7
Issa Nesheiwat	7
Aida Sourì	7
Naela Jiries	8
Nadine Habayeb	9
Simon Abboud	11
Deborah Eassa	11
Akram Tarazi	11
Magdalena Mahshie	12
Diana Sourì	12
Emily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

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A publication of:
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ST. ELIAS
Middle Eastern
Festival



There is still time to purchase and sell raffle tickets!

Enter to Win a \$3000 Vacation!

St. Elias
**Middle Eastern
Festival**

1st Prize AAA Travel- "Destination of Choice" Vacation (\$3000 value)
2nd Prize Stickley Collector Edition Wine Rack (\$1000 value)
3rd Prize Mid-East Cuisine Extravaganza (\$475 value)
See reverse side for details

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
EMAIL _____
PHONE _____

\$25 each

PRICE \$25

Drawing 7/17/22. You do not have to be present to win. Must be 18 or older. PRICE \$25

If you'd like to purchase tickets or sell to family, friends and coworkers, please contact the church office at 315-488-0388.

We're offering 3 great prizes again this year!

1st Prize: AAA Travel Card- \$3000 Value

2nd Prize: Stickley Collector's Edition Wine Rack- \$1000 Value

3rd Prize: Mid-East Cuisine Extravaganza (gift cards and cook book)- \$475 Value

