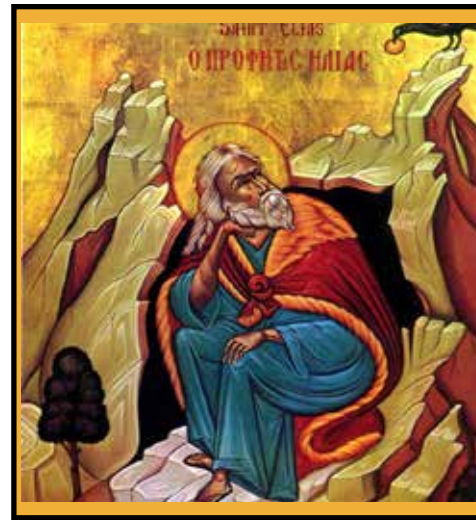


THE CORNERSTONE

A publication of:
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THE CORNERSTONE

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315.488.0388 sainteliasny.com steliasny@aol.com

OCTOBER

Youth Month!
6, 13, 20, 27 Arabic Cooking Classes

NOVEMBER

13 Thanksgiving Dinner
15 Nativity Fast Begins
19 & 20 Holiday Bazaar
21 Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple Liturgy 6PM

DECEMBER

4 General Assembly Meeting & Burbara
8 Evening Divine Liturgy -Conception of Holy Theotokos
10 Christmas Gift Exchange Brunch
24 Christmas Eve Service Fast Ends
25 Nativity of Christ

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

Fall 2022

What's Next?

Dear Elians:

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

With heavy heart I am sharing the following letters communicated to us by the Archdiocese:

Metropolitan Joseph's Statement on His Request to Retire

His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph read this statement to a special session of the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Our Father in Christ, His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X,

Brother Hierarchs of the Holy Synod, Beloved Hierarchs of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America,

Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Board of Trustees,

Organization and Department heads, and all the faithful of this God-Protected Archdiocese,

By the grace of God, by His providence and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I have decided to retire from my administrative position as Metropolitan of New



York and All North America for the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. After prayerful consideration and a life of sacrifice in the church, my painful but deliberate decision is intended to give you peace as it has now done for me.

My decision is based solely on two things. First, my lifelong love and commitment to the protection of the church, and second, my care and concern for the Archdiocese and its faithful. Having maintained a personal principle throughout my life to "never allow anything to hurt the church", I see that the church is indeed in serious peril. It is my hope that my decision to remove myself will spare the Archdiocese and its faithful from any further unneces-

Continued on next page

More communication regarding the Metropolitan,

September 17, 2022

From Metropolitan Joseph

To the Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of the Archdiocese:

By the grace of God, by His providence, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I have decided to retire from my administrative position as Metropolitan of New York and All North America for the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. After prayerful consideration, a life of sacrifice and decades of service to the church, my painful but deliberate decision is intended to give you peace as it has now done for me.

It is my hope that my decision to remove myself will spare the Archdiocese and its faithful any further unnecessary burdens, attacks, and potential financial burdens. May God continue to protect this Archdiocese as a safe haven for all our beloved Hierarchs, clergy, and faithful. This is the hour for us to stand in unity and strength, undivided, and unshaken. I ask your prayers and understanding as I take these steps which I believe are in the best interest of the church.

May God reveal the truth in His time for His purpose and have mercy upon us all.

Church School is in Session!

We encourage all parents to have their children here on time.

We thank all of the teachers and volunteers for their dedication.

Fadi Makhoulouf is supervisor of Sunday School.

sary burdens, attacks from evil doers and potential financial damage.

His Beatitude and I have served God and His holy church together for decades. Since the time we were seminarians, we've shared a mutual respect and admiration for one another. While we haven't always agreed on every issue in the life of the church, ultimately in the end, we supported each other for the benefit of the church. To quote His Beatitude from our meetings last week, "I have never doubted you and believe in you fully." This, along with the protection of the Mother of God who has always been by my side, has brought me great comfort and consolation. God has placed upon me the greatest cross and spiritual challenge of my life. I accept it with joy as I deeply believe it is for my salvation.

I pray that God will continue to protect this Archdiocese as a safe haven for all our beloved Bishops, Clergy and faithful. This is the hour for us to stand in unity and strength, undivided and unshaken. To my flock I pledge, that while it may be difficult for you to understand in this moment, it is not the end. I will never abandon you and I will continue to pray for you. But now, I ask your prayers, trust, understanding and support as I take these steps which I believe are in the best interest of the church. Rest assured that God's desire for us all will prevail and that in His time and for His purpose, the truth will be revealed. This is how God strengthens us and calls on us to trust in Him.

To all those who have falsely accused me by word, thought, or deed, without evidence, whether intentionally or unintentionally, I forgive you. May God be merciful in His judgment upon all of us. Now, let us go forth in peace.

In His Service,
+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

September 23, 2022

+JOHN X Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

To our beloved in the Lord, the Hierarchs, Priests, Deacons, Members of the Board of Trustees, and Faithful of our Holy Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America,

I greet you in Christ, lifting up my prayers for your protection.

In accordance with the pertinent Antiochian Laws and Regulations,

whereas His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH Zehlaoui submitted his Retirement Letter from his position as Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of New York and All North America;

and whereas the resignation request, along with the circumstances related to it, makes the resignation effective immediately;

and whereas it is necessary to ensure the proper care and administration of the Archdiocese, especially in these current circumstances.

Therefore, we inform you that the pastoral, administrative, and financial affairs of the Archdiocese shall be managed by a "Temporary Operating Committee for the Oversight of the Archdiocesan Office." This Committee works according to the Patriarch's directives. Its work is effective immediately, and until a Patriarchal Vicar is appointed. It is composed of the following members:

His Grace Bishop John Abdalah, Committee Chairman; Mr. Fawaz El Khoury, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Salim Abboud, Chief Financial Officer; Archdeacon Emile Sayegh, Chancellor; Archpriest Thomas Zain, Vicar General.

With my love in Christ.
Damascus, 23 September 2022.
+JOHN X
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

October


- Katerina Atallah-Yunes 1
- Gaston Habib 1
- Ziad "Raphael" Khabbaz 1
- Nader Awwad 2
- Majd Elias 2
- Estelle Khairallah 2
- Sheila Mazur 2
- John Sauro 2
- Shadia Tadros 2
- Zuher Dabit 5
- Matthew Kane 5
- Trevor Rott 5
- Walid Alamir 6
- Gabrielle Awwad 6
- Nazar Awwad 10
- Andrew Kane 10
- Diana Abdallah, 11
- Samira Fashho 11
- Stefan Kontopoulos 11
- Lisa Sousou 11
- Evon Hodge 12
- Ronda Akl 13
- George Mtanos 15
- Christian Aitchison 17
- Tyler Stalter 17
- Lulu Abdo 18
- Andrew Aitchison 18
- Joseph Majid 18
- Rosemarie Daoud 19
- Justin Jiries 21
- Louis Rezak 22
- Cameron Aitchison 23
- Nawal Tadros 23
- Salim Fashho 24
- Renee Gabriel 24
- Annette Habayeb 24
- Eva Phillips 24
- Samir Azar 25
- Wahid Akl 27
- Cathy Khammar 27
- Debra George 28
- Anna Tarazi 29

November

- Danna Scouten 1
- Andrew Mullen 2
- Taghreed Tadrus 4
- Kyle Fedrizzi 7
- Fadi Makhoulouf 7
- Corinne Whitworth 7
- Louise Gantos 8
- Lordes Soto 9
- Nadia Totari 9
- Evon DeRoberts 11
- Jane Essi 11
- Christine Wachna 12
- Gabriel Thomas 14
- Maria Ghazaleh 15
- Jeries Souri 16
- Thomas Jiries 17
- Lindsay Wachna 17
- Kara Gantos 18
- Grace Alamir 19
- James Habib 19
- Philip Gabriel 21
- Robert Cotran 25
- Christine Gantos 26
- Gloria Abdo 28
- Samir Tadrus 30

December

- Julia Alamir 1
- Gloria Dayeh 2
- Ludwig Khoury 2
- Deacon Nicholas Mahshie 2
- Elias Nasr 2
- Jaiden Abdo 3
- Mikaila Abdo 3
- Yvonne Abdo 3
- Alexandra Bronchetti 3
- Edward Sabbagh 4
- Jacqueline Eadi 6
- Matthew Abdo 7
- Amanda Tarazi 7
- Georgina Al- Khoury 9
- Marya Al-Khoury 10
- Rima Tadros 10
- Nabeel Algattas 11
- Nassib Habayeb 12
- Andre Alamir 14
- Alexis Gantos 15
- Michel Nasr 15
- Haifa Gantos 16
- Nisreen Tadros 16
- Heather Awwad 18
- Emilie Sousou 18
- Luca Vassallo 19
- Deborah Essi 20
- Charles Phillips 23
- Maha Essi 24
- George El-Amir 25
- Isabella Essi 28




Baptism

James "Matthew" Nabil Habib
son of Gaston & Grace Habib

♦

Thomas Madden IV
son of Rana (Fashho) &
Thomas Madden III

Memory Eternal



Rose Hawa
July 4, 2022



Congratulations New SOYO Officers!



President: Kailah Mahshie
 Vice President: Rajeh Makhlof
 Secretary: Mazen Makhlof
 Treasurer: Roy Nasr
 Social Media: Sami Makhlof
 Maria Ghazaleh

Happy Anniversary!

October

David & Rihab Daoud	2
Scott & Christine Gantos	3
Nader & Diana Soury	5
Nabil & Julia Akl	8
Rajeh & Salwa Makhlof	8
John & Diane Sauro	9
Ramzy & Diala Makhlof	16
Issa & Sawsan Dannoun	20
Leon & Sheila Mazur	23

November

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

December

Walid & Mary Alamir	4
Samih & Lalia Tadros	6
Louis & Antoinette Rezak	15
Albert & Tamar Totari	15
Souhel & Vicki Shehadeh	16
Zouheir & Nadia Totari	17
Gaston & Grace Habib	26
Nassib & Reema Habayeb	27

Continued from page 1

Where do we go from here?

As a church we know Christ will always be our light, our strength, our guide, and protector. With this in mind and having put on the armor of righteousness with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the near future we will have a new Metropolitan and the work of the church will and must continue for it is the only path for our salvation. Therefore even I, who is retired yet continue to labor for the glory of God, I ask you all young and old to express your faith is your active participation in the life of the church.

The Church is not a social Club to attend only when needed. Such ideology contradicts the command of Jesus. By laxing ourselves we become an instrument that wound the body Christ.

Therefore as we begin a new Church year let us be take note of the following: The month of October is always 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 bring indeed 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 a short sermonette, Ushering, Collecting offertories. Our youth serve in the Altar as well as sing in the Choir and in the fervent dynamism give witness to the faith as they carry their faith in the world. Recently they elected their officers for the New Year with Kailah Mahshie as their President. Their energy and enthusiasm must not be vanquished rather encouraged for the Glory of God. We are indeed grateful to their lay Advisors Ramzy & Diala Makhlof and their spiritual Advisor D. Nicholas. Their activities will be printed in the for coming Bulletins.

Also we welcome the new officers of the Ladies: Georgina Al Khoury and Rita Algattas-Co-Presidents; Rima Nasr- Vice President; Layla El Amir Elias- Secretary; Maggie Mahshie- Treasurer.

We commend the Ladies for raising and donating \$5000 for curtains in the church hall. I am very proud of them for their labor of love. Their calendar of activities will be posted on the church web page.

Hence, since Orthodoxy is a way of life, where we are to be of one accord so that we as one body can reflect the love of God through our actions and interactions with one another. Our participation in the prescribed liturgical cycle of the church is essential to our spiritual nourishment. The caveat, it also gives us the opportunity to express our faith through socializing with one another especially as we turn our focus in preparation for the Parish Life Conference in Syracuse next year. We are indebted to Anna Jabaji for chairing the conference and I ask all to assist her. We have many talented parishioners, and with your dynamic spirit the conference will be a success

We at St. Elias invite 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 is revealed to us in the spirit.

May God bless you and your loved ones.
 The unworthy,
 Fr. Elias

Congratulations 2022 Creative Arts Winners!

Silver Medalists!



Yara Alamir - Poetry



Lulu Makhlof - Art



Sophia Makhlof - Art

Gold Medalists!



Naya Alamir - Art



Fayez Abu-Manneh - Art


Outgoing Officers Present Check to Help Pay for New Blinds



Our ladies presented a second \$5000 check to Father Elias and the congregation this year. This donation is earmarked to help pay for new window coverings in the church hall. Thanks ladies!

Creative Arts: Looking Ahead to 2023!





Holy Matrimony
 Sean and Marina Algattas
 June 10, 2022

Robert & Cara Tadros
 August 26, 2022

Hanna and Amanda Algattas
 August 27, 2022

Christian & Rina (Allawh) Weimann
 September 3, 2022



By Rima Nasr, Vice President
Antiochian Women

JOY: GIFT OF GOD

“Do what makes you happy “is a common thought in today’s world. Everyone wants to feel happy and have that positive emotion in their lives.

Have you always considered happiness and joy to be synonyms?

I contend they are two different words, depicting different experiences.

When we say Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, even Happy Halloween, in each case, the expression references an event, occasion or tradition of our human lives whose circumstances made us happy. We try all sorts of things in pursuit of



the” happiness we desire. Sometimes we succeed but we learn quickly is temporal and it is soon lost.

But joy is independent of circumstances. Joy is a gift from God. God tells us we are created in God’s own image; hence, we are creatures formed to receive the very Spirit of God. In John 14:16-17, Jesus prayed that His Father would send us the Counselor - the Spirit of Truth. We have only to believe and receive this Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:16-25. Paul describes the desires of the flesh (humanity) and the desires of the Spirit (divinity). He lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humbleness and self-control.

St. Paul urges us to live in the Spirit and also walk by the Spirit. If we allow God’s Spirit to replace our pride and self-conceit, we shall know joy and be thankful.

Joy comes from within and strengthen us. Anyone can taste this fruit

of the Spirit and instead of doing what makes us happy, we need to do what us joyful.

God bless our efforts and may we always feel joyful serving Him.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW OFFICERS!



Meet the new officers of our Antiochian Women!

Co-Presidents:
Rita Algattas
Georgina Al Khoury

Vice President:
Rima Nasr

Secretary:
Layla El Amir Elias

Treasurer:
Maggie Mahshie

BLUE DRESS SILVER TIE GALA!

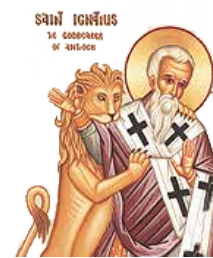
A humble thank you to our generous Lord and to everyone helped, supported and contributed to this blessed and successful event.



You’re Never Too Old to Serve!



Are you looking for a way to serve our Lord? There are so many opportunities. Just ask how you can be of assistance!



THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

Submitted by
Dona Savage

HISTORY AND GROWTH

In January 1975, Metropolitan PHILIP saw the need to study the possibilities of a new organization that would challenge the laity of the Archdiocese to a new dimension of service.

A small committee was organized under the Chairmanship of Albert Joseph and was composed of Ernest Saykaly, Robert Andrews, Robert Laham, Theodore Mackoul, Archpriest Paul Schneirla and Archpriest Antony Gabriel. During the Archdiocese Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky, in July 1975, a preliminary report was filed at the General Assembly. The Metropolitan accepted the findings of the report and by the Archdiocese Convention held in 1976 in San Francisco, CA the provisional chairman, Albert Joseph, was installed and the first inductions to The Order took place.

It was during the Patriarch’s historic trip that the newest Archdiocesan organization was called into being and was given his Apostolic blessings. The first officers and chaplain were formally installed and many new members were inducted at the Washington Archdiocesan conclave in 1977. Ever since his Beatitude, Patriarch Elias IV, of Thrice Blessed Memory, and our beloved, Metropolitan PHILIP, of Thrice Blessed Memory, formally blessed and inaugurated The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, and unprecedented number of lay persons were awakened to their global Archdiocesan responsibilities and scores of earnest women and men have come

forward to join The Order.

From a handful of dedicated and devoted women and men, The Order has grown and continues to grow daily. The projects of The Order continue to attract Antiochian Orthodox Christians from all over North America to join this productive ministry. Members of The Order come from all walks of life: secretaries, executives, factory workers, hospital personnel, home managers. Some members are young, some are senior citizens, some have young families and some have grandchildren. All share a common love for Christ and his Church and a common belief that through The Order they can collectively assist our Archdiocese in performing Christ’s work.

By the Grace of God, the growth of The Order has contributed, since its inception, over \$23 million to many worthwhile Archdiocesan departments and projects and outside our Archdiocese such as: Missions and Evangelism, Youth Ministry, Camp Scholarships, Antiochian Camps, assistance to married seminarians, the Antiochian Village, Heritage Museum and learning Center, retired Clergy housing Allowance, the College Conference, Christian Education, the Special Olympics, Project Mexico, the Chinese Translation Project, Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Montreal Ladies Aid Society, Flood and Earthquake Relief, the International Orthodox Christian Charities and many, many more.

Taken from: *Everything you need to know about the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch*

St. Elias Church Arabic COOKING CLASSES

Thursdays in October 6, 13, 20, 27
6:30 - 8:30 pm . 4988 Onondaga Rd. Syracuse
\$30 per class or \$125 all 4 classes *plus*
our cookbook, **Good Eating the Arabic Way!**

Oct. 6
Chicken Shawarma



Lavash or Pita Bread, Chicken, Toom (Garlic Paste) & Pickles

Oct. 13
Kabseh



Chicken, Rice, Vegetables & Kabseh Spices

Oct. 20
Moghrabieh



Chicken, Onions, Chickpeas & Moghrabieh (Mafoul or Couscous)

Oct. 27
Shish Barak



(Raviolis in Yogurt) Dough, Meat, Yogurt Sauce & Garlic

Register Today!

Call/Text: 315-516-0167 Georgina or 315-254-3534 Rita
By Mail: Form & payment to St. Elias Church 4988 Onondaga Rd.
Syracuse NY 13215

Cash, check or charge accepted . Payment is also available the evening of each class.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the Antiochian Women!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

