

# THE CORNERSTONE

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

## JANUARY

- 5 Evening Divine Liturgy for Theophany 6PM
- 8 Fr. Elias Retirement Luncheon and final Divine Liturgy at St. Elias Archdiocese Special Convention (Dallas, TX) to nominate candidates for Metropolitan. Deacon Nicholas to represent St. Elias
- 15 Fr. Peter Bunitsky of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church celebrates Divine Liturgy at St. Elias
- 22 Fr. Michael Ibrahim's celebrates his first Divine Liturgy at St. Elias

## FEBRUARY

- 11 Evening Divine Liturgy for Presentation of Christ into the Temple 6PM
- 27 Lent Begins

## MARCH

- 5 Orthodoxy Sunday
- 19 Veneration of the Cross
- 24 Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation 6PM

## Winter 2023

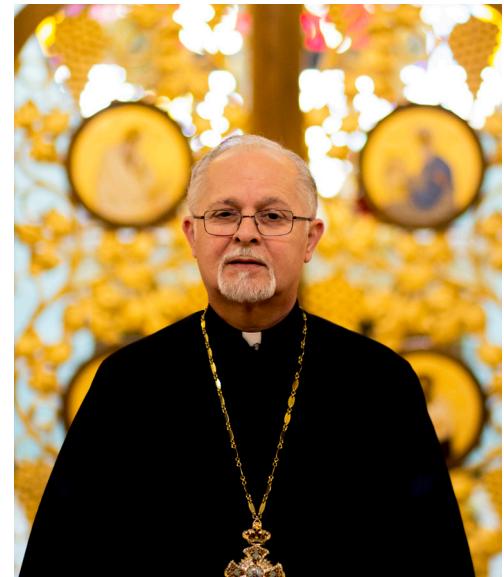
### There is a Time for Everything...

Dear Elians:

I greet you with a holy kiss, praying that this New Year of 2023 will usher peace and good will amongst all. Ecclesiastes 3:1, says "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens". For me as your Pastor for the past 13 years and in the ministry of the church 43 years, it is time to retire from active ministry due to health issues. It was not easy to request retirement and leave a family that I grew in loving and serving.

We have shared the same faith, communed of the same cup of salvation, shared the same struggles and by the grace of God we were able to overcome all the challenges. I am firmly convinced that our Patron and Prophet Elias hears our prayers and intercede the Savior for us. With this conviction, I am sure 2023 will be a new year of spiritual renewal as the family of St. Elias welcomes its new pastor Fr. Michael Ibrahim. The coming year brings us also a new Metropolitan, and 2023 will bring us joy as we welcome our Diocesan clergy and delegates to the Parish Life Conference in Syracuse.

Although at times on certain issues we did not agree, where there is true Christian love, we were able to transcend our differences for the glory of God. If over the years I have offended anyone, I beg



your forgiveness and I ask you to keep me in your prayers. Be assured that you will be in my prayers always.

Before closing I would like to thank the outgoing officers of Parish Council: Habib F Alamir, Kathy Fedrizzi, Mai Makh-louf, Tony Abboud. And I would like to welcome the newly elected members: Mohammad Tadros by appointment, Dr. Michel Nasr, Faris Sousou by election.

May the shining Star of Bethlehem bathe you and your loved ones with its eternal light bring you a great measure of blessing today and throughout the year.

Fr. Elias Nasr



## Year in Review: Antiochian Women Activities 2022

### September

The St. Elias Orthodox Church Ladies officers were sworn in by Father Elias for the 2022-2023. Co-Presidents are Georgina Al-Khoury and Rita Algattas, Vice President is Rima Nasr, Treasurer is Maggie Mahshie, and Secretary is Layla Elias.



### October 6, 13, 20, 27 Thursday Evening Cooking Classes

- The ladies had a very successful turnout for each of our Thursday evening cooking classes. Our parishioners had volunteered their time to teach each of the classes and all who participated had enjoyed their experience. We generated \$1,735 total in revenue for the Ladies account.

### November 11 Yarn-a-thon led by the Humanitarian Committee

- Our first Yarn-a-thon event was well supported by our parishioners. The ladies are looking forward to the second Yarn-a-thon with the help and assistance of our church members.

### November 13 Thanksgiving Luncheon

- Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was a very profitable and lucrative event. The ladies had generated \$3,048 in total. The parishioners and guests who attended were delighted and all enjoyed this celebration of Thanksgiving for all of the blessings in our lives.

### November 19 & 20 Holiday Bazaar

- A total of 22 vendors participate, which included 20 outside vendors, one

table for the Teens of St. Elias, and one table for our Icons. Some of our vendors included St. Elias Church parishioners who showcased their artistic and culinary talents. The ladies cooked kefta, tabbouli, and hummus, with a variety of delicious pastries. This has become a successful and lucrative event.

### December 4 Feast of St. Barbara

- The ladies made Barbara and served it after the Divine Liturgy.

### December 6

- The new blinds were installed in our church hall thanks to the success of the August 2022 Gala and the hard work of our Parish Council. We thank everyone for their continued support for our Church needs.

### December 10 Christmas Gift Exchange Lunch

- The Christmas Gift Exchange Lunch was held at the Embassy Suites from 12-3pm. The ladies charged \$40 per person for this event and had 65 attendees. The event raised \$815.00 in total from the Christmas Gift exchange which included the raffle baskets.

- In addition, we collected and donated gifts to Upstate Golisano Foundation. Our parishioners showed their love of giving to children who are less fortunate and in a time of need.

Gabriel, son of Layla and Majd Elias helps his mom deliver gifts to Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse. Coloring books, crayons, games and more were donated by attendees of the Christmas Gift Exchange.

# The Religious Committee Hosts its 2nd Annual Christmas Family Night!

Submitted by Samaya Nasr

On Friday December 16th, the Religious Committee of the Ladies of Saint Elias hosted their annual Christmas Family Night. This year's gathering was a blessing, bringing together parishioners old and young for an evening of companionship and entertainment.

Beginning with a delicious potluck dinner, the attendees then grouped together to compete in a Nativity Quiz. They afterwards partnered in couples for a hilarious ball-dance competition, which crowned Rima & Michel Nasr the winners.

Children also had blast, decorating Gingerbread cookies and Christmas ornaments, and taking pictures with Santa who made a surprise appearance bringing gifts for all.



Despite the cold and snowy weather, parishioners gathered for the 2nd Annual Christmas Family Night. Everyone enjoyed the activities of the evening and the delightful dinner they shared!

## New Parish Council Officers & Members

### Newly elected officers:

Kathy Rezak Fedrizzi - President  
Diane Sopp-Sauro - Vice President  
Elaine Buza - Secretary  
Anthony 'Tony' Abboud - Treasurer

### Welcome first-time members:

Michel Nasr  
Mohammed Tadrus  
Faris Sousou (returning member)



Council members pose for a picture with Fr. Elias during their monthly meeting. This is Father's final meeting with the Council before his retirement.

# A truly GREAT priest is hard to find and IMPOSSIBLE to forget!

Fr. Elias has been part of our St. Elias Syracuse community for 13 years and he has touched so many of our families—spiritually guiding us and personally being there during our time of need. He has led his flock with love and we are forever grateful for his service and are blessed to have had him in our lives.

Under his leadership, Father has been truly instrumental in the completion of a number of upgrades and beautification projects at St. Elias. Some of those projects include a new iconostasis, the installation of our marble floor, hanging altar lanterns, altar candle sticks (fans, cross & candles), altar bread bowls, painted icons on left & right side of altar, new vestments and the painting of inside the church.



*"And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers..."*



*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, for the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank you for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, for the wisdom that comes through experience, and for the freedom that is given with retirement.*

*Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that has come from the work of many years, and thank you that you still anoint and use us always, in all seasons.*

*We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new*

Also, outside of the major altar projects, additional endeavors have included choir loft icons, a fully-renovated fellowship hall and bathrooms, a newly expanded/upgraded kitchen, and much-needed new roofs. So much has been accomplished and we are very grateful.

So, it is with bittersweet feelings that we say, "Until next time..." and wish you the very best as you begin your new journey near your children and grandchildren.

May God grant you many, many happy and healthy years!

*rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life. And now Lord, we ask for your blessing. May there be good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forward and each day that follows.*

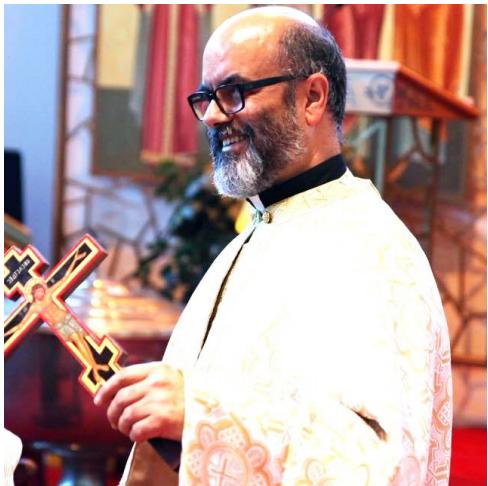
*Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.*

*Amen.*

*May God Grant Father Elias  
Many Years*

*Dn. Nicholas Mahshie*

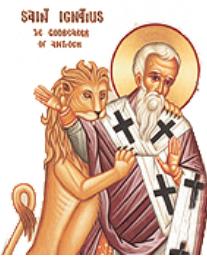
# St. Elias Welcomes Father Michael Ibrahim



Our community extends a warm welcome to Father Ibrahim and his family. Please be on the lookout for related information!



Our Antiochian Women made sure that those in need were able to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner! Following a wonderful meal at our church, visitors to the Samaritan Center in Syracuse were able to partake as well.



## THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

Submitted by  
Dona Savage

### HISTORY AND GROWTH

When the idea was first conceived to establish a lay order of the service of the Church, we then began to search for a name and a Patron Saint. It did not take too long for Metropolitan PHILIP (of thrice Blessed Memory) to select St. Ignatius. One will understand the full scope of his life when he reads on. Briefly, however, we can now note: IGNATIUS was one of the first Bishops from the Great See of Antioch, the spiritual source of Archdiocese and a martyr for the faith. In other terms, he was a witness by his life and deeds and therefore would serve as a real model and Patron for the Order. In addition, he left us seven poignant letters by which we could be continuously inspired.

### The Purpose of the Order

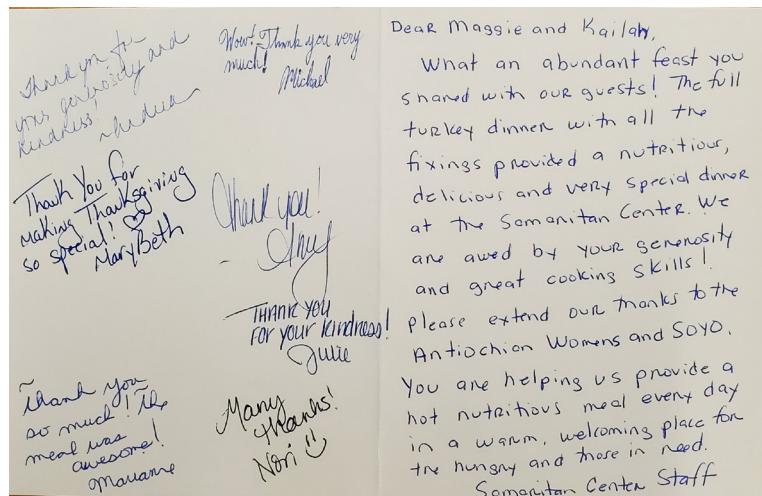
The initial report delivered in Louisville has given the Order its raison d'être that has not changed substantially since its inception and is now embedded in its Constitution:

A. The purpose of this organization shall be solely to strengthen, in every Orthodox Christian way, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America as a spiritual, administrative and functional entity.

B. This Order shall be committed and dedicated to serve solely the Metropolitan Primate, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, to promote and propagate the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the welfare of the Orthodox faith.

C. These goals are to be reached primarily by the raising of serious amounts of additional monies for the Archdiocese, on a continuing basis, primarily from dedicated individual members of the Archdiocese. These monies, in their entirety, would be used to initiate or increase Archdiocesan level activities in selected strategically important areas of endeavors as approved by the Metropolitan Primate.

D. Spiritual strengthening of the Archdiocese will be enhanced by the serious and continuous commitment made by individual members of the proposed organization as a condition of membership. Indirectly, their example can have a great influence on non-members. And, of course, the new enhanced programs funded by the revenues of the organization can only strengthen the Orthodox Christian impact on the lives of all our people.



Dear Massie and Kailah,  
What an abundant feast you shared with our guests! The full turkey dinner with all the fixings provided a nutritious, delicious and very special dinner at the Samaritan Center. We are awed by your generosity and great cooking skills.  
Please extend our thanks to the Antiochian Women and SOYO. You are helping us provide a hot nutritious meal every day in a warm, welcoming place for the hungry and those in need.  
Samaritan Center Staff

*As you can see, the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch has at its very foundation, high and noble purposes.*

# Nativity Play 2022

Our Sunday School children, under the direction of Nujoud and Fadi Makhlof, showcased their acting and musical talents during their performance in the Nativity play. The play, written by Fadi, included beautifully created backdrops and a guest appearance by the youngest cast member, Samir Alimir as baby Jesus.



St. Elias Sunday School children and their teachers spent several weeks preparing for the annual Nativity Play. The children used their many talents to relay the story of the birth of our Saviour, including singing and playing musical instruments. BRAVO!

Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers and the children for their hard work and dedication as they carry on the tradition of this presentation and help remind us of the REASON for the SEASON!

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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## January

Jeries & Aida Souris	1
Mahfouz & Lina Abu-Manneh	9
Nabeel & Rita Algattas	17
Andre & Sana El-Amir	23

## February

Charles & Mary Kammar	10
Antoine Azar & Merian Tomeh	13
John Rott & Janice Abdo-Rott	19

## March

Fayez & Nadia Abu Manneh	9
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## Memory Eternal

The Great Economos  
Fr. Antony Gabriel on 11/19/2022



Clergy gathers for the funeral of Fr. Antony Gabriel. Fr. Antony was a mentor and inspiration to many during his years of service.

# BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

## January

Lily Abboud	1
Fayez Abu Manneh	1
Nadia Abu Manneh	1
Khalid Ghrayyeb	1
Nuhaila Wazen	1
Julia Akl	2
Jewell Gabriel	2
Samih Tadros	2
Josef Akl	3
Rita Algattas	4
Lina Stalter	6
Tom Tadros	6
Matthew Tadros	7
Karen Caporizzo	11
Elizabeth George	11
Nuha Sousou	12
Rami Vassallo	13
Bassel Sakkab	15
Mary Alamir	16
Carolina Cotran	17
Nader Souris	18
Albert Totari	19
Thomas Kane	23
Rami Al-Khoury	25
John Rott	27
Sawsan Salameh	27
Janice Abdo-Rott	29
Zeina Akl	30
Lauryn Abdo	31
Lina Tadrus	31

## February

Salwa Ghrayyeb	1
Julia Totari	2
Souhel Shehadeh	4
Alia Dayeh	5
Dana Nesheiwat	5
Thomas Madden III	9
Elly Cotran	10
Jessica Khairallah	10
Tamar Totari	10
Samantha Dayeh	12
Violette Khabbaz	15
Janet Saba	15
Martin Zablah	16
Olivia Sauro	17
Gary George	20
Faisal Alimir	21
Kailah Mahshie	21
Lisa Dash	22
Nancy Dannoun	23
David Tadrus	24
Sam Tadros	25
Munjed Essi	29
Khader Salameh	29

## March

Leon Mazur	1
Angelica Underwood	1
Gada Jiries	3
Nujoud Makhlouf	3
Musa Shamma	3
Abeer Tadrus	3
Akl Nabil	10
William Vassily	11
Nick Khammar	13
Amal Humsi	14
Layana Azar	15
John Abdo	16
Suad Jabaji	16
Roula Khalifeh	16
David Daoud	17
Holly Kane	17
Sophia Tadros	17
Nader Atallah-Yunes	19
Tawfik Jiries	19
Alysse Dowdle	20
Rose Soto	20
Simona Tadros	20
Antoine Wakim	20
Suha Alamir	21
Jeanette Mtanous	21
Julia Wachna	24
Christine Tadrus	27
Layal Makhlouf	30

Would you like to be included in our list of birthdays & anniversaries?

Please help us keep our records current by emailing  
[steliasny@aol.com!](mailto:steliasny@aol.com)  
(Ascribed members of St. Elias only, please)

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