

THE CORNERSTONE

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

APRIL

- 2 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt and Vespers St. George Macedonian Church - 6 pm
- 3 Great Compline - 6:30 pm
- 5 Presanctified Liturgy - 6:30 pm and Potluck Gathering
- 7 Little Compline with Canon of Raising of Lazarus - 6:30 pm followed by 6th Book Club Session
- 8 Lazarus Saturday. Orthros and Divine Liturgy - 9:30 am
- 9 Palm Sunday - Divine Liturgy - 9:30 am

SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Festival cooking schedule begins this month, see full schedule inside.

MAY

- 24 - Ascension - 6:30 pm
- Festival cooking schedule continues this month, see full schedule inside.

JUNE

- Festival cooking schedule continues this month, see full schedule inside.

Spring 2023

Our Lenten Journey and Beyond...

Dear St. Elias family,

It has been a blessing for me to meet many of you and I am hoping to meet the rest of you very soon.

As you know, I began my ministry here just a couple of months ago, and as you may have noticed, I brought some beautiful weather with me. That being said, it has been a good start for both of us! So far, those of you that I have had the pleasure of meeting, have left a good impression on me. You all share a big heart, a good will and great love for your church. We still, however, have a long way to go together and the excitement has just started.

Right now, we are going through our journey of Great Lent, and in the next couple of weeks, we will be celebrating our Lord's resurrection. So, we need to be ready, and we must finish our Lenten journey peacefully and solemnly, trying to attend as many services as possible. These services allow us to strengthen our faith and our fast, and to offer repentance.

Also, we have a very busy summer ahead of us. First, we are hosting our diocese Parish Life Conference from June 29 through July 2, and second, we have our great Middle Eastern Festival scheduled July 13 through 16.



I look forward to working with all of you and I am here to serve your spiritual needs, so please do not hesitate to call any time you need me.

Let us keep praying to the Almighty God to grant all of us the strength we need to receive the Light on Holy Saturday and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Let us work together and support each other. Let us work in harmony and with love. And let us show the world that we are one family, united together to work for the glory of God.

God bless you all.
Your servant in Christ,
Fr. Michael

HOLY WEEK:

- Sun. 9 Bridegroom Orthros - 6:30 pm
- Mon. 10 Bridegroom Orthros - 6:30 pm
- Tues. 11 Bridegroom Orthros - 6:30 pm
- Wed. 12 Holy Unction Service - 6:30 pm
- Thur. 13 Vespers Divine Liturgy 10 am
Washing of the Feet followed by the 12
Passion Gospels 6:30 pm
- Fri. 14 The Royal Hours - 10 am
The Taking-down of Christ from the
Cross - 3 pm
- Lamentation Service - 6:30 pm
- Sat. 15 Vespers Divine Liturgy of
St. Basil The Great - 10 am
- Rush Service and Divine Liturgy of
St. John Chrysostom - 10 pm
- Sun. 16 Agape Vespers (Reading of the
Gospel in Different Languages - 11 am

Maintaining the Tradition of Giving Back to the Church



As done in year's past, during Antiochian Women Month (March), our ladies present the church with a check for \$5000. Thank you ladies for your contribution and for your hard work. You are role models for all of us!

May God grant you many, many years!



94TH ANNUAL



We're excited to announce that we have co-chairpersons in place to lead our 94th Annual Middle Eastern Festival! Please plan to throw your support behind Rami Al-Khoury and Mohammad Tadrus.

With piloting from our committee heads, it's 'all systems go' and our volunteer coordinators will be reaching out to you in order to fill the many shifts required for our four-day event, please be committed to working with us as one united family sharing our culture and hospitality with our community again this year. If there is a specific area you would like to focus on this year, please feel free to reach out to Rami or Mohammad and they will point you in the right direction!

Festival Food Preparation Schedule

Preparing the food that our Central New York community has come to know and appreciate is a labor of love! Being together during these times has forged relationships for generations.

These times have also given us a chance to get to know one another, share stories, laughs and for some, it has taught us how to create our culture's many dishes.

So please, plan to be with us to lighten the load and to continue building our own community!

| Date | Items |
|-------------------|---|
| April 22 | Grape Leaves |
| April 29 | Grape Leaves |
| May 20 | Ka'ak |
| May 27 | Ma'amoul (Walnut) |
| June 3 | Ma'amoul (Pistachio) |
| June 10 | Ghraybeh |
| June 17 | Birds Nest Chocolate Baklava |
| June 24 | Walnut Baklava |
| July 8 | Harriseh |
| July 9 to 12 | Sweets packaging, Hummus, Tabouleh, Garlic Paste, Vegetable Cutting, Falafel preparation, etc... |
| June 29 - July 2 | PLC |
| Upon Availability | Meat & Chicken Marination |

Humanitarian Committee *Trivia Night For A Cause*

Fundraiser for Michael Shepherd
Friday, April 21, 2023

6 - 11:00PM, Church Hall

Entrance Fee: \$5.00.

Food and snacks also served.

Register:

tinyurl.com/steliatrivia

Call/Text: Samaya Nasr 315-991-0779



St. Elias Antiochian Women

*Submitted by
Layla Alamir Elias*

The Antiochian Women began 2023 with the Humanitarian Committee hosting its third Yarn-a-thon event on January 20. Knitted and crocheted items from this event were donated to the Syracuse Rescue Mission.

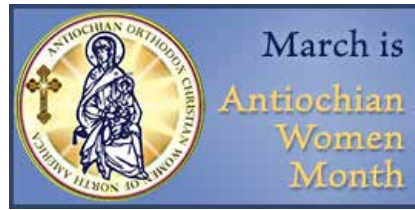


The Antiochian Women held a Welcome Luncheon for Father Michael Ibrahim and Khourieh Roula on January 22. The ladies prepared the meal for all the parishioners of St. Elias Church; we gathered together as one family to welcome Father Michael to his new home.

Due to the tragic event of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey, we had to pivot our plans for the February Valentine's Day Party. Since we had already gathered donated gift baskets meant to be raffled off at the party, we decided to donate all the proceeds from that raffle to the people devastated by the earthquake.



March is Antiochian Women Month. The ladies served as ushers and read the Epistle in Arabic and English on each Sunday of March.



On March 5, the ladies organized and prepared a "Falafel Luncheon" as a fundraiser to help support the victims of the devastating earthquake in the Middle East. We opened the event to the parishioners friends & families; also sold raffle tickets for donated baskets. Many people attended, and we had a successful turnout to help our brothers and sisters in need in the Middle East.

The ladies held Arabic Cooking Classes in the church hall each Tuesday of March. They prepared zalabye, harriseh, falafel sandwiches (prepared by two of our former students), and ouzi.



On March 12, the Pan Orthodox vespers service and dinner were held at St. Elias Church. We welcomed all our fellow Orthodox Christians for the vespers service followed by a Lenten dinner prepared by St. Elias parishioners.



St. Elias Church Arabic COOKING CLASSES



REGISTER FOR THE PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE NOW!

Third Sunday of Lent

St. Elias, Syracuse, NY welcomes you to the
2023 Parish Life Conference
June 29-July 2



Genesis 1:26

Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.

Reserve your room today:
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 6301 State Route 298
East Syracuse, NY 13057 USA +1 315-432-0200
\$128 nightly (US)

For information and continued updates, visit
www.ottawapl.org

We're excited host to this year's Parish Life Conference and we're looking forward to including everyone in volunteer opportunities and events throughout the weekend.

News in that regard will be coming soon, but in the meantime, REGISTRATION is now LIVE! Please visit ottawapl.org or scan this QR code to learn more about the PLC events and to register!



Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5

This day celebrates the upholding the use of holy icons in Orthodox worship and the unity of Orthodox belief and the oneness of our Faith—across languages, continents, and centuries in Orthodox worship. The unity of Orthodox belief and the oneness of our Faith—across languages, continents, and centuries is also celebrated.



Adoration of the Holy Cross

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross, O bright paradise of the Church, O Tree of incorruption, thou who didst bring forth for us the enjoyment of glory everlasting, through whom the hosts of devils are driven out, the ranks of angels rejoice together, and the congregations of believers celebrate, O unconquerable weapon and impregnable foundation, the triumph of kings and the pride of Priests, grant us to apprehend the Passion of Christ and his Resurrection.

+Vespers of the Feast



Church School children join Father Michael and Deacon Nicholas in a procession as we celebrate the Adoration of the Holy Cross. Kids also drew and decorated their own crosses during classes.

"The Lord said: 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Mark 8:34)

Keep an
eye out for
emails about
special
celebrations
for



Mother's
Day

and for

Father's
Day



SAINT IGNATIUS
DE GOODPASTER
OF ANTIOCH



THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

Submitted by
Dona Savage

Q & A on The Order of St. Ignatius

What is the "Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch"?

The "philanthropic arm" of the Archdiocese is an organization of men and women who maintain on an annual basis proper spiritual preparedness and financial commitment. The Order is under the authority of the Metropolitan Primate, Archdiocese Board of Trustees, and the Governing Council of The Order.

Why was it created?

To establish an organization of Antiochian laity who would function at the highest level of ministry for Christ and the Church. It is a spiritual movement manifested through financial giving.

Why is St. Ignatius our patron saint?

St. Ignatius was one of the first Bishops of the See of Antioch, the spiritual source of our Archdiocese. He was a witness for Christ by his life and deeds and serves as a model for members of The Order.

Who can be a member?

All who share a common love for Christ and his Church and are willing to work so

that the Antiochian Archdiocese can continue its ministry. Each member must receive the blessing of his parish priest and be sponsored by a member of The Order. A spiritual commitment is a prerequisite for membership in The Order.

Some say The Order is all about money.

Is this true?

Jesus sanctioned financial giving when he honored the poor widow who gave her last two coins. The Order only asks that we give from our surplus.

Why do members of the Order wear a cross and red ribbon?

It serves as our witness to Christ and a reminder of Him who accepted the Cross for our salvation. We are on display before the world as examples of the Christian Faith. It is an awesome responsibility we bear. The crimson of the ribbon recalls the blood which the Martyr Ignatius shed for Christ. The Cross and ribbon remind us that sacrificial giving is our obligation as Antiochian Orthodox Christians.

Where does the money go?

Within the Archdiocese: Departments such as Missions & Evangelism, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry, and Christian Education.

Other intra-Archdiocese contribution: Camping Scholarships, Married Seminarian Assistance, The Antiochian Village, Teen Soyo Special Olympics, Theological and Religious Education, and Clergy Retirement.

Contribution outside our Archdiocese: Orthodox Christian Fellowship, College Conference Scholarships, Project Mexico, International Orthodox Christian Charities, The Treehouse Family Ministry, and other worthy needs throughout the world.

A note from our former Pastor,

Beloved Parish Council and Parishioners of St. Elias,
Greetings and blessings to you and your loved ones in the Name of our Lord.
I was very much touched and humbled by the outpour of love extended to me on my retirement. Please accept my deepest gratitude for your generous gift that will be put to good use. St. Elias church and you in particular have a special place in my heart and will continue to be in my prayers.
In christ
+ Fr. Elias Nann



Our mission is to aid in the spiritual growth of the young adults within the Archdiocese, bringing them to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We strive to foster an active Orthodox Faith in Christ through:

- Worship through the full liturgical-cycle of the Church including attending weekday services together, gathering at a local parish for its Feast Day, and the combined services at diocese and Archdiocese gatherings.
- Spiritual Renewal and Education through retreats, conferences, speaker series, pilgrimages, and bible studies aimed at the needs of our young adults.
- Service through short-term mission trips and volunteer activities on a local level.
- Fellowship through social outings, conferences, and gatherings College Ministry

Orthodox Christian
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY✙
a ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Follow them on Facebook!

Did you know that St. Elias has a Young Adult Ministry?

It's true! If you're a college student or young adult (up to age 40), and you'd like to know more about this organization, please feel free to reach out to Marc Jabaji, Faris Al Khoury or Father Michael!

In support of pan-Orthodoxy, the majority of the College Ministry efforts of our Archdiocese are done through the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). OCF is the official campus ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. OCF sponsors annual College Conferences (one of which takes place at the Antiochian Village) and Real Break. The heart of the ministry is the on-campus chapters that provide a home away from home and a connection to Christ's Holy Church. Father Anthony Yazge serves on the OCF Board of Directors and is a member of the Executive Committee.

OCF is developing and maintaining a database of all Orthodox college students to help keep collegians connected to the Church. Students receive regular communication from OCF regarding programs and ministries. Their contact information is shared with the OCF chapters of the schools they are attending and/or the closest Orthodox Church. Visit the OCF webpage to submit your college student's information. Let's keep our young people connected!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.....

April

Habib & Milia Alamir 13
James & Hilda Khammar 28

May

John & Simona Tadros 2
Nader & Gada Jiries 3
Mohammad & Nawal Tadros 3
Musa & Basma Shamma 5
Andreh Alamir & Zeina Alibrahim 8
Soubhi Azar & Nour Warde 13
Bob & Kathy Fedrizzi, 15
Navid Rashidi & Dena Khoury 24
Stefan & Eleni Kontopoulos 26
Nader & Yvonne Atallah-Yunes 27
Gary & Debra George 27
Paul & Danna Scouten 29

June

Nicholas & Yvonne Abdo 3
Nabil & Irene Allawh 4
Nader & Heather Awwad 5
Andre & Jennifer Wakim 5
Munjed & Jane Essi 7
Faris & Lisa Sousou 8
Shibel & Anna Jabaji 10
Jeurje & Suha Alamir 14
Nabil & Annette Habayeb 18
Sameer & Nadima Alamir 22
George & Georgette Mtanos 23
Edward & Shirley Sabbagh 25
Andrew & Chrystal Mullen 29



Are you looking for a gift for someone special?

Check out the showcase items in the church hall!

Icons . Cards . Candles . Jewelry . Magnets . Cookbook and more!



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

April

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Rima Nasr | 1 |
| Paul Scouten | 3 |
| Rajeh Makhlof | 4 |
| Elias Sawalha | 6 |
| Dan Wachna | 6 |
| Antoine Azar | 8 |
| Stephen Nickolas | 10 |
| Jeurje Alamir | 11 |
| Suhail Ashkar | 11 |
| Issa Dannoun | 11 |
| Vicki Shehadeh | 15 |
| Yara Alamir | 16 |
| Rajai Fashho | 17 |
| Razan Fashho | 17 |
| Simon Azar | 18 |
| Andre El-Amir | 20 |
| Grace George | 20 |
| Mary Kammar | 20 |
| Natalie Rott | 20 |
| Anthony Abboud | 21 |
| Larry Nasser | 23 |
| Helen Rezak | 24 |
| Suleiman Dayeh | 26 |
| Gabriel Elias | 28 |
| Anthony Caporizzo | 29 |

May

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Sami Khoury | 1 |
| Suhad El Alam Ghazaleh | 2 |
| Sana El-Amir | 3 |
| Samir Khoury | 3 |
| Sam Azar | 5 |
| Thomas Eassa | 5 |
| Khader Fashho | 5 |
| Lara Fashho | 5 |
| Elias Abboud | 6 |
| Mahfouz Abu-Manneh | 6 |
| Kreslyan Faroni | 6 |
| Roy Nasr | 6 |
| Joanne Craig | 7 |
| Nada Tadros | 9 |
| Violette Humsi | 10 |
| Layla Soto | 10 |
| Nour Warde | 10 |
| Shawn Nasiff | 12 |
| Lina Abu-Manneh | 13 |
| Nimer Shehadeh | 14 |
| Robert Tadros | 14 |
| Cindy Abdo | 15 |
| Maria Khalifeh | 15 |
| Mareena Faroni | 19 |
| Rana Madden | 19 |
| David Underwood | 20 |
| Rina Allawh | 21 |
| Solomon Dayeh | 21 |
| Aliah Mahshie | 21 |
| Mohammed Tadros | 21 |
| Laurie Tawil | 21 |
| Jihan Khoury | 22 |
| Sydney Dash | 23 |
| Roene Nasr | 23 |
| Nicholas Sauro | 24 |
| Suhail Awwad | 27 |
| Alaina Craig | 27 |
| Ramy Guindy | 28 |
| Charles Kammar | 28 |
| Nadine Savage | 31 |

June

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Elias Gantos | 1 |
| Marc Jabaji | 4 |
| Diala Makhlof | 5 |
| Salwa Makhlof | 5 |
| Georgette Mtanos | 5 |
| Zouheir Totari | 5 |
| Tonya Warner | 5 |
| Nabil Habayeb | 6 |
| Ramzi Khairallah | 6 |
| Ramzy Makhlof | 6 |
| John Tadros | 6 |
| Samir Alamir | 7 |
| Grace Khairallah | 7 |
| Naya Alamir | 11 |
| Anna Jabaji | 11 |
| Sophia Makhlof | 11 |
| Nicholas Abdo | 12 |
| Scott Nasiff | 12 |
| Tony Caporizzo | 13 |
| Sameer Alamir | 14 |
| Sammer Essi | 14 |
| Issa Ghazaleh | 14 |
| Nabila Nasser | 14 |
| James Khammar | 15 |
| Basma Shamma | 15 |
| Shukri Dayeh | 16 |
| Ashley Caporizzo | 17 |
| Neil Khammar | 18 |
| Fr. Michael Ibrahim | 19 |
| Diane Sopp-Sauro | 19 |
| Hilda Dannoun | 20 |
| Andrew Eassa | 20 |
| Grace Habib | 20 |
| Habib Alamir | 21 |
| Helen Abdo | 22 |
| Mazen Makhlof | 23 |
| Rajeh Makhlof | 23 |
| Alexander Eassa Jr. | 25 |
| Wanda Tonjes | 26 |
| Karen Gabriel | 29 |

Churchings

Rami Salter
Parents :Tyler & Lina Stalter
Grandparents: Wahid & Ronda Akl

Christopher Douglas Scouten
Parents: Paul & Danna Scouten
Grandparents: Elias & Mary Sawalha

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