

THE CORNERSTONE

ST. ELIAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

4988 Onondaga Road . Syracuse, NY 13215

315-488-0388 . sainteliasny.com

Pastor Michael Ibrahim

michaelibrahim62@msn.com



February 2024

ASK ABOUNA

YAM'S Q & A WITH FATHER IBRAHIM

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM), an archdiocesan-level organization led by St. Elias' Marc Jabaji, featured Father Michael at its first **Ask Abouna** session of 2024 earlier this month. Each quarter, members of YAM meet virtually with a guest, seeking answers to their questions about the Orthodox faith. YAM was formed to cultivate spiritual growth of the young adults within the Archdiocese, bringing them to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Its mission is 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.

The following is a selection of questions and answers from the Ask Abouna event with Father Michael on January 9, 2024. Participants were from Syracuse, Ottawa, and Montreal.

Q
A

What is the process of preparing for Holy Communion?

Everything we do in our lives requires preparation. We prepare ourselves before work, when we invite guests over, we clean our homes and prepare a meal. Preparing for Holy Communion should actually begin the night before with the Service of Preparation for Communion and fasting. Nowadays, most people fast on Sunday morning and recite the prayer, "I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ..." before approaching the chalice.

Q

I've noticed that the Old Testament frequently mentions the number seven. What is its significance?

A

The number seven is often mentioned in the New Testament, too. Seven is the number of completion. For example, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Also, there are seven days of the week. In the church, there is even something called the New Day. This is the Eighth Day, reiterating that the seventh was the completion.

Q

Why is the clergy made up of only men, is it a tradition?

A

No, it's not a tradition. Jesus chose only men as His Disciples, to preach the Word of God. However, the church calls some female martyrs equal to the Apostles. And many of them lived, worked, and preached as the disciples did.

Q

I've often heard that the church frowns upon cremation. Why?

A

There are two major reasons for this. 1. Our body is the temple for the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are not allowed to desecrate it, even with things like tattoos. 2. We believe that when Christ comes again, we will be resurrected. If cremated, how will one be resurrected with Him?

Q

Does the Orthodox church have a particular protocol when it comes to non-Orthodox attending Divine Liturgy?

A

Actually, yes. There are rules about this, however, they're rarely followed. The liturgy is broken down into three areas: Preparation, Liturgy of the Word (Chatecumens), and Liturgy of the Faithful. Because we are not in

A faith together, technically, the visitor should leave prior to the Liturgy of the Faithful which commences with the "Great Entrance" and the singing of the Cherubic Hymn. Again, we don't stop anyone from attending or staying at services.

Q *How can we help someone close to us that is struggling with anxiety?*

A It's really helpful to understand the cause of their anxiety, or what type of problem they're having. I believe the first thing you should do is pray for them. But also, as you know, we have many believers in the church, but many have a problem *trusting* God. We have to believe that God will heal us and point us in the right direction.

Q *The church teaches us to be 'God-fearing' Christians. So, when we consider entering into a romantic relationship with someone, how do we know if they're truly God fearing?*

A It's important to have conversations with the person, or take note of their actions. You could ask questions like, what does the church mean to you? Do you give to the poor? What are your feelings about family? Also, ask yourself, does he or she treat me with respect? Asking questions upfront can save you many troubles in the future!

YAM is an organization for those ages 18-35. If you're interested becoming a member, or to learn more about YAM, contact Marc Jabaji at marcjabaji@gmail.com

 Follow YAM on Instagram @doecuny.yam

CONGRATULATIONS!



Father Michael celebrated his one-year anniversary with us on Sunday, January 28, 2024. It has been a wonderful year of worship! Thank you, Father and may God grant you many years!

CENSUS

DEADLINE
February 29th

It's imperative that you complete and submit your form so that we can meet the Archdiocese deadline.

Planning is underway!

St. Elias
Middle Eastern Festival

More updates coming soon!

 @Syracuse Middle Eastern Festival

Don't Miss Out!

Visit our online events calendar often for upcoming happenings!

[See calendar](#)

COFFEE HOUR... 

at the heart of hospitality


Secure your family's spot as a coffee hour sponsor!

[Reserve your Sunday](#)

St. Ignatius Game Night!


Fun was had by all at last month's Game Night!

[View Event Photos](#)

 @St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church- Syracuse, New York

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES?

We're still transitioning to new software, so please be patient!



Your census form will help us maintain accurate information! So please submit yours today!

