



SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

A parish of the Self-Ruled Antiochian
Orthodox Christian Church of North America

Most Rev. Metropolitan Philip, Primate
Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Stephen Mathewes, Seminarian
Rev. Deacon Luke Toumi
Subdeacon Gheorge Doros
Subdeacon Joseph Kouyoumjian

*It is our pleasure to welcome visitors and friends to our church.
If you would like to know more about our parish,
or the Orthodox Church, please feel free to ask.*

**Orthodox Christians who have confessed their sins
and have prepared themselves by fasting
are invited to receive Communion.**

*Everyone is welcome to venerate the cross and share Holy Bread.
Following Liturgy, please join us in the parish hall
for coffee and refreshments.*

CALENDAR

<u>Today</u> -	40-Day memorial for Bruno DiCicco Choir Concert, 4:00 pm
<u>Wednesday</u> -	Advent Paraklesis, 7:00 pm
<u>Friday</u> -	Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 am Matins & Divine Liturgy for Christmas, 5:00 pm followed by singing of Christmas carols
<u>Next Sunday</u> -	Matins & Divine Liturgy, 9:00 / 10:00 am
<u>Fasting</u> -	<i>The Advent Fast continues each day through Christmas Eve. There is no fasting from Christmas day through January 4.</i>

19 December
2010



Sunday before
the Nativity
of Christ



The
Genealogy

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The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the Apostle John. St Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch. Tradition suggests that when St Ignatius was a

little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

As Bishop of Antioch, St Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. St Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. St Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts.

On the way to Rome St Ignatius met with many clergy and believers. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. He wrote

seven epistles, all of which have survived to the present day. The Roman Christians met St Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but St Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led St Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts."

After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, St Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, St Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ."

After his execution St Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome. Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of St Ignatius were transferred to Antioch and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.

ORDER SUNDAY

Each year on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Ignatius parishes in the archdiocese recognize all the members of the Order of Saint Ignatius. At the end of the Liturgy today Father Joseph will present certificates to those who have joined the Order in the past year.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent Paraklesis: Wednesday at 7:00 pm
 Royal Hours: Friday at 9:00 am
 Matins & Liturgy for the Nativity: Friday at 5:00 pm
 Sunday after the Nativity: Matins & Liturgy at 9 / 10 am

CHOIR CONCERT

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
 Today at 4:00 pm

A Christmas concert and reception. Don't miss it.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Again this year our parish worked with the Cambridge Family Children's Service for holiday outreach. As usual, our members were wonderfully generous, helping insure that disadvantaged children can celebrate Christmas. Thanks to Angie and Daniela for a great job of organizing our efforts.

CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY

The 2011 liturgical calendars have arrived. These lovely calendars with full color icons have been donated by Dianne, Garrett, John jr and Leah Shalbey. They are in the narthex and in the parish hall. The new parish directory is also available in the parish hall.

OFFERINGS

Envelopes are enclosed with this bulletin for your extra offering on Christmas. The proceeds are used in part for decorations during this festive season. A list of the donors will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas eve.

STEWARDSHIP

Our annual stewardship program began last month. The deadline for returning 2011 cards was last week. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Parish Council. Thanks to the 77 members who have returned their cards. If your card is still sitting on the kitchen counter, please send it in asap!

90TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2011 our church will celebrate it's 90th year. Your Parish Council is already chatting about this wonderful milestone and they want your input. If you have ideas for a celebration, speak to any member of the Council.

LADIES OF SAINT GEORGE

Mark these dates:
 January 9 - afternoon outing to X & O Restaurant;
 February 12 - hosting the diocesan retreat;
 March 25 - cooking a Fish Dinner;
 Remember, \$10 dues for 2011 should be given to Camille Florio;
 Finally thanks to Doris Copoulos and the Ladies for their sponsorship of the Christmas card this year.

ARABIC CLASS

Deacon Luke is offering an Arabic class. Sessions will resume in the new year.

BUILDING RESTORATION

The Building Restoration account has been opened. Envelopes for gifts to this account are now available.

NEW WEBSITE

The website of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishop in North and Central America has been launched. Check it out at <http://www.episcopalassembly.org/> Updates and additions will continue to be made to the several web pages which comprise the site, so check back frequently!

HOLY BREAD - The gifts this morning are offered by Reggie DiCicco and her family. A 40-day memorial for Bruno will follow the Liturgy. The gifts are also given by the Doros family.

COFFEE HOUR - Please stay for refreshments following the Liturgy hosted by the Doros family.

VOTIVES - Seven day candles burn before the Icons, given by the Doros family in memory of Daniela's grandmother, Ilinica.

GIFTS TO SAINT GEORGE -

Dolores Elias, Sandy Thomas & Family and anonymous donors
 *in memory of John Hamos*
 Sandy Thomas & Family *for the health of Anita Allison*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER -

Pray for the servants of God: Archpriest Nicholas and Pamela (Manikas), Deacon Elias (Hamaty), William, Kate (Melchert), Fred (Tomm), Lucia Camille (Baba), John (Howard), Nicole (Tourigney), Darcey, David (Knipe and family), Tripp (Head), Roger (Eysie), Alan (Andrew), Lana (Joseph), Christina (Adams), Emaline (Eakle), Jamil (Samara), David (Elliott, serving in Iraq), Michael (Eysie), Janis, Timothy (Wright), Kathrynne (Howard), Edward (Arees), Nicholas, Claudia (Eysie), Najlae (Solomon), Frances (Giandomenico), Frederick (Howard), Lillie (Kelley), Lovee (Thomas), Sandy (Thomas), Loretta (Thomas), George (Fares), Charles (Howard), Mary, Ioana, Nicolae, Sam, Catherine, Margaret, Brian, Marion, Sarah, Josephine, Sterling.

Pray for the servant of God Christos Georges who departed this life earlier in the fall.

Income Dec. 12	Pledges	Donations & Memorials	Sunday Tray	Christmas Offering
\$5071.00	\$4440.00	\$95.00	\$251.00	\$195.00

Council & Parish Leaders

Christine Byron (Secretary)
 Joseph Eysie (Vice Chairman)
 Barbara Campbell (Chair)
 Gheorghe Doros (Treasurer)
 Anthony Grasso
 Richard Plouffe
 Marwan Samman
 John Shalbey jr.
 Linda Thomas

Assistant Treasurers:
 Beverly DiFlaminies
 Leeann Plouffe

Building Committee - Andrew Howard
 Chanters - Erik Potter
 & Rezanne Toumi
 Choir Director - David Franciosi
 Christmas Card - Doris Copoulos
 Church Custodian - Gerry Mullen
 Epistle Readers - Lovee Thomas
 Food Pantry Rep. - Kay Moseley
 Holy Bread - Catherine Keches
 Hospitality - Angie Sepulveda
 IOCC Rep. - Emily Howard
 Ladies President - Katie Birtwell
 Order of St Ignatius Liason - Erin K.
 Sacristan - Subdn. Gheorghe Doros
 Scholarship Committee - Helen Abril
 School Superintendent - Rich Plouffe
 Teen Advisor - Emily Howard
 Teen President - Timothy Markatos
 Teen Treasurer - Nicholas Kimmitt
 Usher - Andrew Howard
 Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik



Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

The Genealogy

EISODIKON

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

TROPARION OF THE FATHERS (TONE 2)

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

TROPARION OF SAINT GEORGE, PATRON OF OUR COMMUNITY (TONE 4)

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great-Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

PREPARATORY KONTAKION FOR THE NATIVITY (TONE 3)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

Prokeimenon and Verse:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

The Reading is from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Hebrews

(11:9-10; 17:23, 32-40, Sunday before the Nativity)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated-- of whom the world was not worthy--wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

ALLELUIA VERSES

Alleluia. Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice. *Alleluia.* For the Lord hath chosen Sion. *Alleluia.*

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

(1:1-25, Sunday before the Nativity)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers . . .

. . . and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.