



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

*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.*

**20 December
2009**



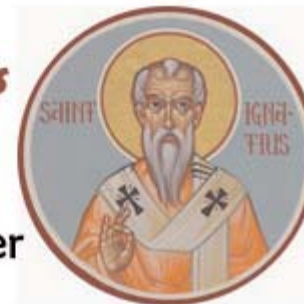
**Sunday before
the Nativity of
Christ: The
Genealogy
God-bearer
and Martyr
Ignatius**

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CALENDAR

Today -	Church School Christmas Pageant, 12:30 pm 1-year Memorial for Marc Wilbur Ladies Meeting after Coffee Hour & Pageant
Tuesday -	Advent Paraklesis, 6:00 pm
December 24 -	Royal Hours, 9:00 am Matins & Christmas Liturgy, 5:00 pm
Next Sunday -	Matins 9:00 / Divine Liturgy 10:00 40-Day Memorial for Julia Phillips
January 5 -	Theophany Liturgy & Water Blessing, 6:00 pm
Fasting -	The Advent Fast (also known as the "Christmas Lent" or "Philip Fast") continues through December 24th. There is no fasting from Christmas through January 4th.

**Saint
Ignatius
Month:**



**December
2009**

December is St. Ignatius Month

God bless us all with health and happiness this season and always. This month throughout our Archdiocese parishes will be adorned in red as members of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch don their membership crosses suspended by a red ribbon, a symbol of the blood which the Martyr Ignatius shed for Christ. The Cross and ribbon remind us that sacrificial giving is our obligation as an Antiochian Orthodox Christian.

In celebration of St. Ignatius Sunday, which falls this year on December 20, members of The Order in each parish will wear their crosses and pins, act as greeters, read the Epistle, take up the collection, help with the Communion line, give a homily, host the coffee hour for their parish that day. It is hoped that members will speak with those in their parish unfamiliar with The Order and explain the good works that are accomplished through membership.

Blessed Feast and many thanks to the members in our parish:

Hellas Assad

Christine Byron
Dolores Elias
Joseph Eysie
Alice Kelley
Marlene Lupaczyk
Dorothy Pollock
Dianne Shalbey

Joan Cassidy
Florence Esper
Andrew Howard
Kh. Erin Kimmett
Leeann Plouffe
Marion Redonnet
Linda Thomas

***Many years to His Beatitude Patriarch IGNATIUS IV on his name's day,
the feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch!***

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offering envelopes have been distributed in the pews. Your kind and generous gifts are much appreciated and go toward our preparations for the Feast. Gifts received by TODAY will be noted in the Christmas bulletin.

ON AIR AND ON LINE

His All Holiness BARTHOLOMEW, the Ecumenical Patriarch will be featured on the CBS News program **60 Minutes** reported by Bob Simon, scheduled to air tonight at 7:00 pm. The segment will focus on the Orthodox Church, the most ancient Christian church, and its development from its earliest years to modern times in what is now the Republic of Turkey.

Ancient Faith Radio announces "God is With Us!", a special collection of podcasts reflecting on the Nativity Season. In addition to this collection, we provide "The Path" with Fr. Tom Soroka, a wonderful resource that will enrich the Nativity season. This daily (M-F) podcast draws on the Epistles and the Gospel readings, both from the Orthodox Study Bible, and is supplemented by commentary from the Fathers. Visit <http://ancientfaith.com>

This week on the **Orthodox Christian Network**, Father Chris Metropulos interviews Bishop BASIL of the Antiochian Orthodox Church on the "Importance of the Nativity Season and Advent" taken from his presentation from Cave to Cave. Check out www.myocn.net

STEWARDSHIP 2010

Our 2010 Stewardship drive began last month and officially concludes today. Pledge forms were distributed at coffee hour and by US Mail. (Extra forms are available in the narthex.) The Parish Council is grateful to everyone who has returned their cards.

As of this past Friday, 55 members have already made commitments to the church for a total of \$34,594. (an average of \$628 each.)

SHOPPING ON LINE THIS YEAR

Just a few shopping days left: Remember our marketplace when you shop. It is your doorway to 1,000 + online stores. Shop with any of these merchants and they will donate a portion of every sale to our church. All you have to do is click on the little shopping bag at www.StGeorgeNorwood.org and start shopping! You can also put a shopping bag directly on your desktop.

NICHOLAS TREE

Our parish outreach for the Christmas season has been done in conjunction with the Cambridge Family and Children's Service. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the roller skating party or for the gift bags. If you would like to help assemble the gift bags, see Emily Howard. If you would like to skate with the foster children on the 29th, see Father Joseph for details.

CALENDAR

Thanks to Andrew Howard for our 2010 calendars. These calendars, produced by Saint Tikhon's Seminary, include the saints days, fasting periods and daily Scripture readings, plus beautiful icons. There is a copy for each household, they are available in the narthex and in the parish hall.

CHRISTMAS CARD

Much appreciation to the Ladies of Saint George who coordinated our holiday card this year. They were mailed to all our parishioners, as well as friends of Saint George. If you know someone who might like one, please let Doris know today. The photo on the front can double as a post card -- after the first of the year, we will have extras for sale.

HOLY BREAD - Gifts are offered by the Kinosian Family for the safe travel of Kara to Kenya. Gifts are offered by the Doros Family. Gifts are also offered by Ellie Tomm and Lana Joseph in memory of Janice Wilbur and Marc Wilbur (for whom a 1-year memorial will be offered.)

COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the parish hall, sponsored today by Ellie Tomm and Lana Joseph.

VOTIVE CANDLE - A seven-day candle burns before the Icon of Christ, given by Sarah Pucci, Christine Byron and Karen Kinosian in memory of Samuel Tahmoush.

GIFTS TO SAINT GEORGE -

Spicer & Solomon Familiesfor the health of Najlae Solomon
 Andrew Howard & Familyin memory of Paul Maloof
 Elaine Piccirilliin memory of Nima Hadge
 Ken Hadgein memory of Ida Rossetsky
 Jim and Helen Rossetsky, & Jennie Mikein memory of Anthony Abril
 Kay Mikefor the health of Michael Eysie and Daphne Lilakos
 Sam & Beverly DiFlaminiesfor the health of Michael Eysie
 Hellas Assadin memory of Nick Destito
 Donationin memory of Bill Bazzy
 Alice Kelley & Florence Esperfor Sarah Kelley on her 90th
 Martha Cali, Dolores Elias, Hellas Assad, Sarah Pucci, Jennie Mike,
 Nick & Doris Copoulos, John Howard, Kathryn Howard, George &
 Madeline Shaheen, Emaline Eakle, Sophie Boulis, Alex & Mary Deeb,
 Honey Toliias, Ernest & Sally Peter, Lovee Thomas & Family, Sandy -
 Linda & Bobby Thomas, Sam & Beverly DiFlaminies, Michael &
 Samera Mike and anonymous donorsin memory of Sarah Grasso

REMEMBER IN PRAYER -

Pray for the newly departed servants of God Sarah (Grasso), Paul "Rocky" Maloof of New York (his obituary is on-line at <http://obit.burnettwhitefuneralhomes.com/>) and His Eminence Archbishop JOB (Osacky) of Chicago & the Midwest (OCA.)

Income Dec. 13	Pledges	Donations & Memorials	Tray	CFCS Collection
\$2921.00	\$608 .00	\$640.00	\$293.00	\$445.00

Council & Parish Leaders

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

Assistant Treasurers:

Beverly DiFlaminies
 Leeann Plouffe

Chanters - Erik Potter
 & Rezanne Tourni

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
 IOCC Rep. - Emily Howard

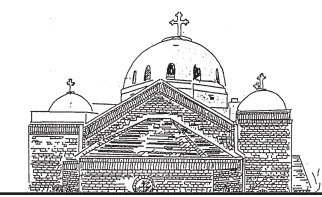
Ladies President - Katie Birtwell
 Sacristan - Subdn. Gheorghe Doros
 Seminarians - Stephen Mathewes
 & Rabee Tourni

Scholarship Committee - Helen Abril
 School Superintendent - Rich Plouffe

Teen Advisor - Emily Howard
 Teen President - Timothy Markatos

Teen Treasurer - Nicholas Kimmitt
 Ushers - Andrew Howard

& Marwan Samman
 Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik



**Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ: The Genealogy
Hieromartyr Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch**

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 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

Make ready O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha, for the tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin. For her womb did appear as a supersensual paradise, in which is planted that holy Vine. If we should eat thereof we shall live and not die as Adam of old. Christ shall be born, raising the image that fell at the beginning.

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**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.