

# The Spirit of St. George

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
4530 E. Gold Dust Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85028-4221

Volume X Number 6 Monthly except July & August

June 2003

## The Sacrament of Holy Ordination

As the Parish Life Conference saw us witness the second ordination to the Holy Deaconate of one of our own, it seems appropriate to seek the understanding of what this holy sacrament is and why it is bestowed upon those men who serve the Lord's altar.

Holy Ordination is a sacrament of the Orthodox Church. Because not every one of us partakes in this sacrament, it is often overlooked or misunderstood. As with all of the sacraments, Ordination is instituted by Christ Himself. The first Scriptural reference is from the Gospel of John where the Lord Jesus sends forth His apostles to continue in the ministry of the Word, "**As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.**" (John 20:21) Furthermore, in Matthew we hear, "**Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**" (Matthew 28:19-20). It is this verse that teaches us the fullness of the priestly ministry: A man is ordained when the Bishop lays his hands on the candidate, raising him to be a shepherd of the flock of Christ, in order to teach them the Word of God, administer the sacraments for them and to guide them to salvation.

Often, however, people inquire, "Who is worthy to serve God and His table?" Quite truthfully, the answer is: NO ONE! Any one who does anything without God is ultimately doomed to failure. But with God and through God, all things are possible! The opening prayer that we heard at Deacon Raphael's ordination states exactly that:

The Grace divine, which always heals that which is infirm, completes that which is wanting, elevates through the laying on of hands, Raphael, the most devout Sub-deacon to be a Deacon. Wherefore, let us pray for him that the grace of the all-holy Spirit may come upon him.

As you may notice, it is the Spirit of God that descends upon the candidate making him worthy. It is no action of his own that prepares him. **God** heals all of his sinfulness and sanctifies him, sending upon him the divine Grace of the Holy Spirit. And believe that this is very real. Something mysterious (though not magical) takes place in the sacrament. The candidate is truly changed into a vessel designed to serve God and him alone. The respect that we give to our clergy is because of this fact. The priest or deacon was chosen by God to serve His holy Church, in spite of all of his shortcomings!

This teaching goes even further to show that despite the sins of the bishop, priest and deacon who serve us, the sacraments are completely valid. The sanctity of the Eucharist does not depend upon the "worthiness" of he who offers it otherwise, there would have been no Holy Communion since the Last Supper some 2000 years ago! But rather, it is dependant upon the Lord Himself who offers and is offered, who accepts and distributes, who stands as the one true High Priest of God. But nevertheless, it is *through* our bishops, priests and deacons that we receive these gifts. These are the men whose hands actually prepare and offer the holy gifts to God to be sanctified. It is for this reason that we take the blessing and kiss the hands of our bishops and priests each time that we greet them.

The most important aspect of the priestly ministry (to which bishop, priest and deacon are all a part of, though with different rank) is to preach the Word of God to all of the faithful flock. The responsibility of the pastor to lead his flock unto salvation is ultimately what secures his own. True witness to whether a bishop, priest or deacon is "good" is his commitment to the Gospel of Christ. There is no earthly or material accolade that is more important to the priest than to properly proclaim the Gospel. There is no other focus or concern than the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why we pray for our clergy during the Divine Liturgy. We beseech God to give them strength and understanding so that they might proclaim the Gospel of Christ and proclaim it correctly to us, in order that we might receive our place in the line of salvation. Without our clergy to guide us, the path to salvation becomes confusing and difficult.

This last point brings us to another aspect of the priesthood, that of spiritual father. In the Holy Orthodox tradition, it is said that, "the man who is spiritual guide to himself, is like a blind man being led by another blind man. He does not see where he is going." Because we cannot lead ourselves to salvation we seek the guidance of our spiritual father. Each and every one of us needs to seek the advice and wise counsel of our priest. In fact, even the priests have priests! Our priests are called by the title "father" for that very reason. They are there to help us mature in the Christian life. Although we as the spiritual children may not always understand what our spiritual father is doing, and we may certainly not like what we hear, we must believe that **everything** that our priest says and does for us is ultimately aimed at leading us to salvation. It is the same with our parents growing up. We didn't always agree with their decisions, but we always

knew they loved us. Sometimes, the greatest gift that our spiritual father can give us is honest criticism. Who else can we go to that we know no matter what we say and do will always love us and tell us exactly what we **need** to hear, even if it is not what we **want** to hear. There are no false pretenses with our priests; they say what they must in order to lead us closer to Christ. And as always, their motivation is love.

Our reflection on the Holy Sacrament of Ordination is one that I hope teaches us to always remember our beloved clergy. Remember that they are always there to serve you, both at the Lord's Table and at the earthly table. Remember that they are always present to help you on the walk of life. And remember that they are always in need of your God-pleasing prayers. Beseech the Lord God to grant your clergy strength to always proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that we may be guided down the path of salvation!



## ~ Bishop JOSEPH'S Visitations ~

June, 2003		
7 - 8	St. Stephen Church, Cupertino, CA	Episcopal Visit
15	St. Matthew Church, Torrance, CA	Episcopal Visit
22	St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA	Episcopal Visit
26 - 27	Santa Barbara, CA	Western Region Sacred Music Institute
28 - 30	Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Ben Lomand, CA	Patronal Feast Day
July, 2003		
2 - 7	St. George Church, Utica, NY	Can-Am Region Parish Life Conference
18 - 29	St. George Cathedral, Coral Gables, FL	Archdiocese Convention

## Church Records

Baptisms	<b>Myah Janette Hasbany May 9, 2003 Parents: Michael &amp; Maria Hasbany</b> <b>Andrew Ian Sweilem May 10, 2003 Parents: Issa &amp; Jennifer Sweilem</b> <b>Halle Marie McBride June 1, 2003 Parents: Michael &amp; Renay McBride</b>
Funerals	<b>Khouria Fannie Habib April 29, 2003, Avanel Wolfley May 26, 2003</b> <b>Thomas G. Habib May 26, 2003</b>

There will be no Great Vesper services on Saturdays during the summer months.  
We will resume in October.

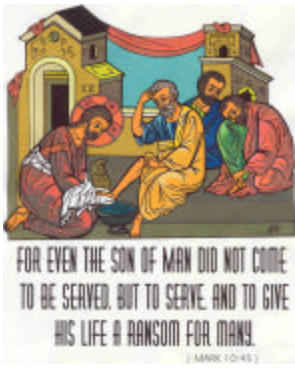
The Ladies Auxiliary held their last regular meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> at La Madeleine's. Elections will take place at the next regular scheduled meeting in September. Think of a person to nominate and watch for the time and place to be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

### St. John the Divine Fellowship ~ Dates to remember in June:

Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> Pancake Breakfast after Divine Liturgy

Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> Bunko & Whist Night @ 6pm

Tickets on sale in the Hall after church on Sundays.



# 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Antiochian Convention

## Bulletin

***THE CONVENTION IS ONLY 4 WEEKS AWAY (JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup>)***

Call the Fontainebleau Hotel and make your reservations! (305) 538-2000

Call St. George and buy your ticket books and pre-register! (305) 444-6541

Kids Cove Program (regularly \$45 a day) is free to 1<sup>st</sup> 50 Clergy children ages 7 – 12 years old. Call and reserve space! (305) 444-6541

Child Care from 3 – 6 years old for \$10 per day. (305) 444-6541

**Don't forget the great events!**

- **Monday Night**      **Cocktail Welcome Party**      Business Attire  
    Invitation Only
- **Tuesday**                      General Assembly of Order of St. Ignatius
- **Tuesday Night**      **St. Ignatius Dinner**      Cocktail Attire
- Bus to Lincoln Road & South Beach**      Casual Attire
- **Wednesday**                      AOCNA Luncheon
- **Wednesday Night**      **Hospitality**      Casual Chic  
    South Beach
- **Thursday**                      General Assembly
- **Thursday Night**      **Floribbean Extravaganza**      Caribbean Casual  
    Dancing, Dinner, Fireworks, etc.
- **Friday**                              General Assembly
- **Friday Night**                      **Hafli**      Cocktail Attire
- **Saturday Night**                      **Grand Dinner Dance**      Cocktail Attire  
    Two bands and tons of fun

**Tours:**      **Miami Seaquarium, Viscaya, Parrot Jungle Shopping, Airboats, Fishing**      **(954) 779-3322**

**Golf:**      **Fabulous Tournament on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> Breakfast, Lunch, Prizes & Fun**      **(305) 444-6541**

**Space is Limited – Please Call Now**

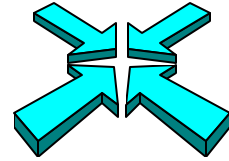
# Intro to Orthodoxy

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| July 8, 2003      | Church History: AD 33 to the Present<br>By Fr. Chris Salamy        |
| July 15, 2003     | Church, Tradition and Scripture<br>By Jim Truscott                 |
| July 22, 2003     | Icons and Saints<br>By Dn. Raphael Abrahams                        |
| July 29, 2003     | Worship, the Divine Liturgy and Prayer<br>By Dn. Anthony Blackwell |
| August 5, 2003    | Evening Divine Liturgy: Transfiguration of Christ                  |
| August 12, 2003   | Orthodox Hymnology<br>By Fr. Chris Salamy                          |
| August 19, 2003   | Holy Sacraments<br>By Jim Truscott                                 |
| August 26, 2003   | Schism, Heresy and Apostasy<br>By Dn. Raphael Abrahams             |
| September 2, 2003 | Salvation<br>By Dn. Anthony Blackwell                              |

All classes are free and open to anyone desiring to learn more about the Holy Orthodox Faith. Classes begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the office Conference room. For more information please call St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church at (602) 953-1921.

# YOUTH CONNECTION



HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!

I hope you all have an enjoyable break... always remembering that there are certain things in our lives that we should never take breaks from---

prayer, scripture reading, and our life in the church.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will be the director at Camp St. Nicholas this summer. I will be thinking of you and missing you very much! It will be such a joy to see many of you there!

☺ HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO! ☺

- Sunday School Kick-off Day- Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>  
*...with our annual Talent Show that evening!*
- Sunday School resumes- Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>
- PATHWAYS resumes- Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm
- Teen Bible Study resumes- Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm
  - HOPE resumes- Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10am
- SOYO New Members Party- Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

**MAY WE ALL CONTINUE TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF HIS CHURCH  
DURING THIS SUMMER SEASON!**

**“Share what you have, lest you lose what you have. Spend what you possess on the needs of others in order to keep what you possess. Do not cling to what you own, lest it be taken away from you. Do not hoard your treasures, lest they rot and become worthless. Entrust all your wealth to God, because then it is protected against all who want to steal or destroy it. Do you understand what these injunctions mean? Or do they sound like nonsense to you? To the person without faith, they mean nothing. But to the person with faith, they make perfect sense. Faith tells us that God alone can supply the material things on which we depend. He gives some people more than they need, not that they can enjoy great luxury, but to make them stewards of his bounty on behalf of orphans, the sick, and the crippled. If they are bad stewards, keeping this bounty to themselves, they will become poor in spirit, and their hearts will fill with misery. If they are good stewards, they will become rich in spirit, their hearts filling with joy.”**

**~St. John Chrysostom~**

# July 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No Bible Study	2	3	4	5 No Great Vespers
		6 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	7 Parish Council Mtg 7pm	8 Bible Study 6:30pm	9	10
13 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	14	15 Bible Study 6:30pm	16	17	18	19 No Great Vespers
20 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	21	22 No Bible Study	23	24	25	26 No Great Vespers
27 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	28	29 Bible Study 6:30pm	30	31		

# August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Dormition	2 No Great Vespers
					<b>Dormition Fast</b>	
3 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	4 Parish Council Mtg 7pm	5 Eve. Divine Lit. 6:30pm Transfgr. of Jesus Christ	6	7	8	9 No Great Vespers
					<b>Dormition Fast</b>	
10 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	11	12 Bible Study 6:30pm	13	14	15	16 No Great Vespers
					<b>Dormition Fast</b>	
17 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	18	19 Bible Study 6:30pm	20	21	22 ▼	23 No Great Vespers
24 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	25	26 Bible Study 6:30pm	27	28 Eve. Divine Lit. 6:30pm Behead- ing of John the Baptist	29 <b>Day of Strict Fasting</b>	30 No Great Vespers
31 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy						

# July

JULY 2003	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
<b>Epistle Reader</b>	Bruce Florence Romans 5:1-10	Michael Haddad, Kassab Saigh Titus 3:8-15	Tess Bronnenkant James 5:10-20	Zubeida Horan II Timothy 2:1-10
<b>Greeters</b>	Hani & Amal Farah	Michael & Ruby Rideout	Aziz & Samar Haddad	Richard & sherry Nichols
<b>Ushers</b>	Kathy Sayegh Margaret A. Raymond Lillian Macoule Jim Saliba George Maloley Joe Abraham	Carrie Sayegh Suzanne Sayegh Salwa Nassar Michael David Tony Karraz David Ghiz	Rachel Abrahams Irene Saigh Heather Labbe Jack David Sami Lorenzo Farhat David	Simon Abrahams Ruby Rideout Samira Sayegh Dale Belt Sam Nassif Ralph Clair
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Simon Abrahams Brian Johnson Ronnie Sayegh Joseph Sayegh Alexander Thomas Anthony sawawneh	Mathew Saliba Chris Doumani Michael Aboud-Rihani Philip Bolanos Rick Khoury Andre Nelson Gus Sahawneh	Danny Sayegh Alex Saliba Nick Kalinchenko Basil Dahlan Ramy Khoury Issa Sayegh Butros Sayegh	Andy Leahu Musa Sayegh Odeh Sayegh Brandon Fuja James Sayegh Abanoob Sayegh Jared Blackwell
<b>Hall Lock-up</b>	Brigette DeRienzo	Issa Sweilem	Aziz Haddad	Ralph Clair
<b>Coffee Hr</b>	Open	Issa & Jennie Sweilem Dr.s Garth Gemar & Natalia Wilson	Open	Laila Sayegh
<b>Stewardship Table</b>	Anna Bronnenkant Stephanie Haddy	Jim Bogues Becky Abrahams	Jim & Kathy Saliba	Aziz & Samar Haddad

# August

August 2003	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
<b>Epistle Reader</b>	Scott Ferris Romans 15:1-7	Larry Haddy I Corinthians 1:10-17	Jim Bogues I Corinthians 3:9-17	Irene Saigh I Corinthians 4:9-16	Richard Nichols I Corinthians 9:2-12
<b>Greeters</b>	Adam & Heather Labbe	Nick & Liz Kalinichenko	George & Carol Ordynsky	Ralph & Jeanette Clair	Ken & Lynda Haddad
<b>Ushers</b>	Krystal Saigh Jane Romley Christine Sayegh Richard Nichols Mike Ziton Hani Sayegh	Amanda Haddad Sara Foster Natascha Karadsheh Ray Toronto Hani Farah Aziz Haddad	Eva Quomsieh Mary Karadsheh Liz Kalinichenko David Durgam Majed Sayegh Adam Labbe	Molly Abrahams Maram Quomsieh Jennifer Saigh Bob Foster Jamal Sayegh Michael Rideout	Kathy Sayegh Nicole Doumani Evelyn Kosobud Eddie Khoury Nick Kalinichenko Philip Abdoulah
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Simon Abrahams Brian Johnson Ronnie Sayegh Joseph Sayegh Alexander Thomas Anthony Sahawneh Jiries Karadsheh	Mathew Saliba Chris Doumani Michael Aboud-Rihani Philip Bolanos Rick Khoury Andre Nelson Gus Sahawneh	Danny Sayegh Alex Saliba Nick Kalinichenko Basil Dahlan Ramy Khoury Issa Sayegh Butros Sayegh Joseph Hasou	Andy Leahu Musa Sayegh Odeh Sayegh Brandon Fuja James Sayegh Abanoob Sayegh Jared Blackwell	Simon Abrahams Brian Johnson Ronnie Sayegh Joseph Sayegh Alexander Thomas Anthony Sahawneh Jiries Karadsheh
<b>Hall Lock-up</b>	Heather Sayegh	Dan Thomas	Joyce Bogues	John Karadsheh	Marion Saba
<b>Coffee Hr</b>	Nassar Farhan	Open	Buzz & Rima Iacovelli	John & Nicole Doumani	Open
<b>Stewardship Table</b>	Faisal Saigh Jack Khoury	Aziz & Samar Haddad	Tony Karraz, Jim Bogues	George & Sharon Maloley	Bob & Sara Foster

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**4530 E. Gold Dust Avenue**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85028-4221**

**Office: (602) 953-1921**  
**Fax: (602) 953-2460**  
**E-mail: Abounachris@AOL.com**

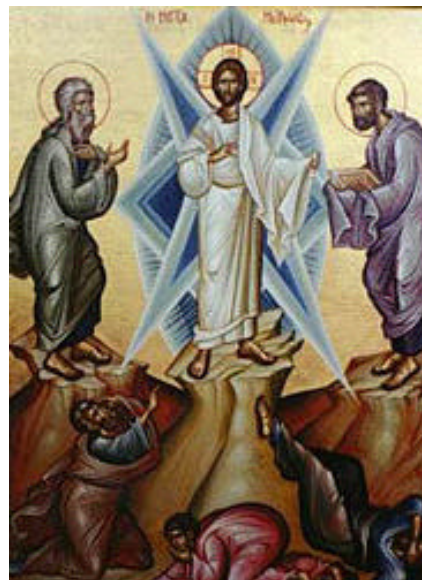
Office Hours 9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

**The Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy**  
**(602) 765-6069**

**Church Services**

**Sat. Great Vespers cease until October**  
**Sun. Matins 8:50 a.m.**  
**Sun. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
**Evening Feast Days 6:30 p.m.**

Confessions are heard the following times, or  
by making an appointment with Fr. Christopher:  
Sunday 9:00-9:25 a.m.  
Parishioners are encouraged to submit articles for  
Consideration. The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



**Transfiguration of our Lord God,  
Jesus Christ ~ Evening Divine Liturgy  
Tues. August 5th 6:30 pm**