

The Spirit of St. George

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

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May 2003

The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

If any man is a devout lover of God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man is a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of the Lord. If any has labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any has wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any has come at the third hour, let him have no misgivings; because he will in no wise be deprived thereof. If any has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any has tarried even until the eleventh hour let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as to him who has wrought from the first hour. And He shows mercy on the last, and cares for the first...And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.

Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward...You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast you all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry. All of you, enjoy the feast of faith. Receive all the riches of loving-kindness. Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shone forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He who was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, he has made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was angered, when it encountered You in the lower regions. It was angered for it was abolished. It was angered, for it was mocked...it was angered, for it was overthrown. It was angered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen. O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the Angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

~ Bishop JOSEPH'S Visitations For April 2003 ~

May, 2003		
2 - 4	St. George Church, Portland, OR	Patronal Feast Day
7	St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA	Divine Liturgy & Lunch with Clergy and Wives
11	St. George Church, Upland, CA	Episcopal Visit
18	St. Mark Church, Irvine, CA	Episcopal Visit
20 - 26	St. George Church, Phoenix, AZ	Western Region Parish Life Conference
31 - June 1	St. Michael Church, Las Vegas, NV	Episcopal Visit

Surrounded by a Cloud **Holy Martyr Hermias, May 31**

By Sub-Deacon Ron Abrahams

Hermias was a soldier for the Imperial army in the second century. He lived in Kormana, Cappodicia, in Asia Minor. We do not know when or how he became a Christian, but we do know that it was in his senior years that his faith was most fervent. He was known to assist the needy even to the point of denying his own needs. A positive force for Christ, people looked to him for spiritual guidance and teaching of God's Word. All texts about him say he was born a hundred years too late – he deserved to be with those who walked with the Lord, such was the piety and style of his mission for Christ.

Antonius Pius was emperor from 138 – 161 AD. He appointed a man, named Sebastian as governor of Cappadocia, to persecute the Christians. He began by harassing innocent Christian families then targeted Christian leaders and quickly found Hermias. At first he tried to publicly disgrace him, then enticed him to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods promising honors and mercy from the emperor. Hermias refused. Instead he bravely confessed his faith in Christ.

Unsuccessful, Sebastian submitted Hermias to tortures. His teeth were broken, face skinned, and then placed in a flaming furnace. After three days the furnace door was opened and he miraculously emerged unscathed.

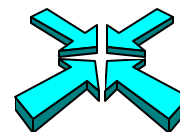
Sebastian next thought he would beguile Hermias with potions and arguments into denying Christ. He called Marus the Magician to the task (most texts say he was an unknown magician). Hermias answered with fervor. He relied on his knowledge of scripture to turn the ineffective charm into a debate in which he managed to convince Marus to repent and give his life to Christ. His conversion apparently came after the second potion which was intended to kill Hermias, but miraculously didn't.

Sebastian ordered Marus' beheading, but various tortures continued for Hermias. When his eyes were gouged out he responded by saying, "Take the eyes of flesh which used to gaze upon the vanity of the world; I have other eyes in my heart with which I clearly see the true light." He was then hung by his feet for three days.

The evil governor sent some people to check on Hermias to verify his death, but found him alive. Struck by this miracle, they were blinded with fright but Hermias called to them to approach him. He laid his hands on them, prayed for them, and healed them in the name of Jesus Christ. When Sebastian heard this news he fell into a rage, took a sword, and beheaded Hermias himself. Christians secretly took his body and buried him.

His martyrdom was horrible, but what we learn from this saint is that old age doesn't have to slow anyone down in the service of Christ. American culture wants us to believe that we in our old age should retire and live a life of ease. No one these days in our country is called to give up our life as Hermias did, but we all are called to give our life to Christ as he did. No matter what our health, infirmity, or lot in life, we are all called to serve Christ in some capacity. Timothy served in spite of his youth, Hermias served in spite of his advanced years. We all fit somewhere in between. Pray for us St. Hermias, that we would all find ways to serve Christ our Lord that we may be faithful and approved servants of Christ.

YOUTH CONNECTION



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATES!

AND A MOST SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF
AND TEACHERS FOR MAKING THIS YEAR SUCH A SUCCESS AND A
BLESSING FOR THE CHILDREN!

IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED YOUR CHILDREN FOR CAMP ST. NICHOLAS
THIS SUMMER, PLEASE LET KATRINA KNOW ASAP.

PATHWAYS SUMMER DATES:

May 6
May 13
June 10
June 17
June 24

Pathways will resume regular Tuesday meetings on Sept. 9th.

ATTENTION ALL SOYO MEMBERS:

OUR END OF THE YEAR PARTY AND ELECTIONS WILL BE
HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH FOLLOWING LITURGY.

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2003!!!

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BE HOSTING THE WESTERN REGION
PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

THERE WILL BE AN EXCITING TEEN SCHEDULE AND KIDS'
SCHEDULE FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN!

PLEASE GO TO WWW.STGEORGEPHOENIX2003.COM FOR A COMPLETE
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES.

May 2003

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Teen Bible Study 7pm	2	3 Great Vespers 5 p.m.
4 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy SSch 11:30am	5	6 PATH-WAYS Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council Mtg 7pm	7	8 HOPE 10AM Teen Bible Study 7pm	9	10 Great Vespers 5 p.m.
11 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	12	13 PATH-WAYS/ Bible Study 6:30pm	14	15 Teen Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Great Vespers 5 p.m.
18 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy	19	20	21 Parish Life Conf.	22 Parish Life Conf.	23 Parish Life Conf.	24 5:00 pm Vespers @ Radisson Resort
Western Region Parish & Family Life Confer...						
25	26	27 No Bible Study	28	29	30	31 Great Vespers 5 p.m.

May 2003

Sunday May 4

Epistle Reader	Acts 5:12-20	Jim Bogues
Greeters		Ray & Rose Marie Toronto
Ushers	Molly Abrahams, Irene Saigh, Heather Labbe, David Ghiz, Jack David, Sami Lorenzo	
Altar Servers	Andy Leahu, Musa Sayegh, Odeh Sayegh, Brandon Fuja, James Sayegh, Abanoob Sayegh, Jared Blackwell	
Hall Lock-up		Dan Thomas
Coffee Hour		Enaam Hweimel
Stewardship Table		Sam Nassif, Sam Hanna

Sunday May 11

Epistle Reader	Acts 6:1-7	Larry Haddy, Sherine David
Greeters		Philip & Connie Abdoulah
Ushers	Kathy Sayegh, Ruby Rideout, Samira Sayegh, Farhat David, Dale Belt, Sam Nassif	
Altar Servers	Simon Abrahams, Brian Johnson, Ronnie Sayegh, Joseph Sayegh, Alexander Thomas, Anthony Sahawneh, Jiries Karadsheh	
Hall Lock-up		Heather Sayegh
Coffee Hour		James & Briggette DeRienzo
Stewardship Table		Mother's Day

Sunday May 18

Epistle Reader	Acts 9:32-42	Scott Ferris
Greeters		Anna & Tess Bronnenkant
Ushers	Carrie Sayegh, Christina Sayegh, Jane Romley, Ralph Clair, Richard Nichols, Mike Ziton	
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba, Chris Doumani, Michael Aboud-Rihani, Philip Bolanos, Rick Khoury, Andre Nelson, Gus Sahawneh	
Hall Lock-up		Ralph Clair
Coffee Hour		William & Nadia Quomsieh
Stewardship Table		Ray & Rose Marie Toronto

Sunday May 25

Epistle Reader	II Cor. 4:6-15	Irene Saigh
Greeters		Adel & Enaam Hweimel
Ushers	Rachel Abrahams, Sara Foster, Natascha Karadsheh, Hani Sayegh, Ray Toronto, Richard Saba	
Altar Servers	Danny Sayegh, Alex Saliba, Nick Kalinchenko, Basil Dahlan, Ramy Khoury, Issa Sayegh, Butros Sayegh, Joseph Hasou	
Hall Lock-up		Aziz Haddad
Coffee Hour		Odeh Sayegh
Stewardship Table		Western Region Parish & Family Life Conference

Church Records

Baptism Of ~ James Alexander Hamill
April 5, 2003

Parents: Samuel & Stephanie Checuras Hamill

Congratulations To our 2003 High School Graduates

The following young people will be
graduating from Shadow Mountain
High School:

**Eva Quomsieh, Krystal Saigh,
Carrie Sayegh and Salim Shleef**



For Even The Son Of Man Did Not Come To Be Served, But To Serve, And To Give His Life A Ransom For Many.” (Mark 10:45)

The 2003 Parish & Family Life Conference

Hosted by St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
May 21 ~ 26th at the Scottsdale Radisson Resort
7171 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Please be reminded in order to attend ticketed events, during the Conference, requires registration. Once registered, a badge will be printed with your name and the events that you have purchased. This badge will be your entry into those events. So be sure to register as soon as possible for the events you would like to attend. Anyone that does not purchase any event tickets will be charged an additional \$5.00 processing fee to assist with Conference Expenses.

Calling all Parishioners . . .

Anyone who can help us obtain prizes for the Sunday Evening
“Farewell Fun-Fest” at the Parish & Family Life Conference,
please contact Marion Saba @ 480 991-0663

