

# The Spirit of St. George

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

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## ~ A Message from Fr. Chris...

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At one point or another, every American child falls asleep on Christmas Eve anticipating the arrival of a jolly old man in a red suit with a pipe clenched in his teeth. As they drift off to sleep with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads, a tremendous hope fills their souls. A hope that upon arousal from sleep, a race down the stairs will reveal that, indeed, Santa Claus did visit and that the stockings are full and gifts are everywhere.

While we as Orthodox Christians know that the Lord's Nativity is the true reason that we celebrate Christmas, it's easy to reflect upon our own childhood experiences as we too hoped for the arrival of jolly old St. Nick! Although we never did see him, or even hear his sleigh for that matter, we had such high hopes that he would come that every American person considers it his or her right to share their story of that tragic day when they found out the truth.

Hope is an amazing thing that way. Having hope is looking toward the future for something that has not yet come. I never met a child who hoped for Santa Claus to come as they joyfully ripped open a present. Their hopes had already been fulfilled. But boy, that Christmas Eve possessed a lot of optimism. Hope is having faith that something ahead of you in time shall be fulfilled. Hope is trusting that there is a brighter future to come.

At some point in life every man's thought shifts from "what am I going to get?" to ultimate questions of "life after death." It is a sad day to learn the truth about Santa Claus, but it is a cold and dark day when man realizes the fact that he will inevitably end this life in death. So much unknown waits on the other side that it is

conceivable what was once hope may turn to despair.

My ultimate point is that with God, we have no despair, no sorrow and no fear. God is victorious over death. God has caused the sting of Death to die and removed the victory of Hades. We triumphantly chant that most beautiful hymn on Pascha, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" We truly believe that there is a better life that exists and that God desires to put us there. St. Paul says, "Rejoice in your hope," and "...[we have] hope for things not seen." But having this hope doesn't mean crossing our fingers or tossing a coin into the fountain, but it means believing that God is able to conquer Death, and in fact has done so. It means knowing in your gut that when this life has ended and Christ comes again to judge between the living and the dead, we have a chance to be declared righteous and given the true gift...eternal life! But as always, remember that having hope is not a feeling or a sentiment, but it is action. Just as every child tries to behave throughout the year (or at least convince Santa Claus that he was a good boy!), Orthodox Christians have the same responsibility to walk as children of the light, obeying the commandments of God and loving our fellow man. By living life in the manner accustomed to the Gospel, we radiate our faith in God and our hope in His promise of life-everlasting.

R.E.A.C.H.

# Bishop JOSEPH'S Visitations

February	
14 - 15	St. Raphael Mission, Palm Springs, CA
16 - 20	Povarello di Assisi Retreat House, San Fernando, CA
21 - 22	Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA
29	St. George Church, Upland, CA



## Church Records

### Baptisms

Daria Rida Bazzi & Jad Rida Bazzi  
December 28, 2003  
Rida & Lina Karam Bazzi

### Marriages

Mark & Caroline Aeed Southam ~ Nov 8, 2003  
John & Janan Sarsam Dippel ~ Jan 17, 2004

### Funerals

Helena Semenoick ~ January 6, 2004  
William Slanta ~ January 29, 2004

## Ladies Auxiliary Notes

February Ladies Auxiliary Meeting to take place Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dessert and coffee will be served. All of our Ladies are invited to join in.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Bunko/Whist party on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Look for an evening of enjoyment, great prizes and refreshments. We always have such fun!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>. St. George will host the Pan Orthodox Lenten Service on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Services will begin at 6:00pm. The Ladies Auxiliary will be preparing refreshments after the service in Fellowship Hall. In addition, there will be a Lenten luncheon served after liturgy on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to help raise funds for the designated Archdiocese Lenten Charitable Function. Anyone who wishes to donate food and/or money for these two functions, please see Evelyn Kosobud.

Finally, the Ladies will be hosting their Annual Bake less Bake Sale during the month of March. Watch

for the donation form in your Sunday bulletin. March is designated as AOCWNA - Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America month. This is the month that we ask our Ladies to serve as ushers and Epistle readers. Please, Ladies sign up for a Sunday that you can help serve your church.

## Parish Council Meeting

First Council Meeting of newly elected board members will be February 2, 2004 at 7:00pm

## SURROUNDED BY A CLOUD

Monk John called Barsonophios  
By Dn. Raphael Abrahams

As you know, leap year comes every four years in the short month of February, and yes, there are saints commemorated on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Monk John called Barsonophios is one of many saints remembered on this day, albeit every four years.

Monk John was born in Palestine. He was baptized at 18 and shortly thereafter tonsured a monk. He led an exemplary ascetic life and in due course was ordained Bishop of Damascus.

In time he missed the solitary life and secretly withdrew to Alexandria taking on the name Barsonophios. In the nearby wilderness he was accepted into a monastery. Though he was an ordained Bishop, he served the elders by day and spent his nights in prayer.

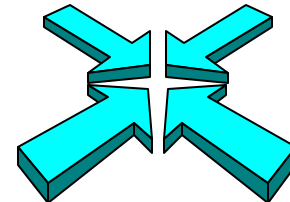
Eventually the true identity of Barsonophios was discovered by a traveler, but he did not return to Damascus. Once again he secretly withdrew into another Egyptian wilderness and finished his days as a monastic.

In a way it is fitting that this Saint be remembered on February 29<sup>th</sup>, since he is officially remembered every four years, and he preferred the quiet life of a monastic.

Some might think Monk John irresponsible for fleeing his duties as Bishop. Instead we should learn from his faith that we are not all called to higher offices in the Church. We are not called to sit on the sidelines - we are called to serve the Lord our God to the best of our abilities and talents.

Additionally, like Monk John, we should all take time to withdraw in prayer. Pray for us Monk John!

# YOUTH CONNECTION



## LIVE FROM THE CLASSROOM!

This year, in the fifth and sixth grade class, we are learning parables from the bible. We are taking the morals from these parables and teaching the children how to apply them in their everyday life. The moral to many of the parables are to help one another and to be a good Orthodox Christian. Our service project for this year was to make personal care packages for the children of Positive Impact. Our class raised enough money from the successful hot chocolate/bake sale to make 20 personal care packages. In completing our project the children in our class expressed how good it felt to be able to help the less fortunate children in our society.

Your Sisters in Christ,  
Hanna & Caraline Saigh

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## WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

- IOCC "SOUP"ER BOWL SUNDAY- *Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>*
  - SOYO SKI TRIP- *Friday-Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>*
- SOYO OUT-N-ABOUT REACH- *Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>*
- SUNDAY SCHOOL PENNY WAR BEGINS!- *Sun., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>*
  - SOYO MONTHLY MEETING- *Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>*
- SOYO DESERT DEANERY RETREAT- *Fri-Sun, March 12-14*
  - SOYO FALAFEL SALE- *Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>*
  - ALL-NIGHT VIGIL- *Great Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

**\*\*\*PATHWAYS- TUESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm**

**\*\*\*TEEN BIBLE STUDY WILL CHANGE FROM  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm TO THURSDAY  
NIGHTS FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> - PASCHA**

**\*\*\*HOSPITALERS WILL MAKE THEIR VISITS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:**

*1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/7, 3/21*

## **BEATITUDES FOR THE HOME**

BLESSED are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate and considerate, loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

BLESSED are they who have a sense of humor, for this attribute will be a handy shock absorber.

BLESSED are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vows of lifetime of fidelity and mutual helpfulness to one another.

BLESSED are they who attain parenthood, for children are a heritage of the Lord.

BLESSED are they who remember to thank God for their food before they partake of it, and who set apart some time each day for the reading of the Bible and for prayer.

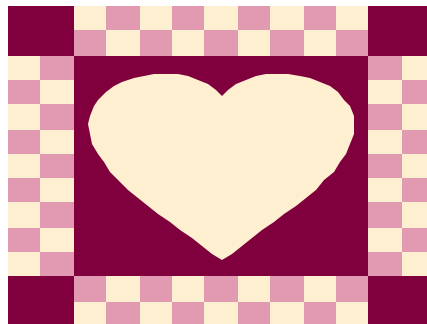
BLESSED are those mates who never speak loudly to one another and who make their home a place where "seldom is heard a discouraging word".

BLESSED are the husband and wife who faithfully attend the worship service of the church and who work together in the church for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who can work out problems of adjustments without interference from relatives.

BLESSED is the couple who has a complete understanding about financial matters and who has worked out a perfect partnership with all money under the control of both.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ and who practice the teachings of Christ in the home by being unselfish, loyal, and loving.



# February 2004

## Sunday February 1

Epistle Reader	Romans 8:28-39	Richard Nichols
Greeters		Richard & Sherry Nichols
Ushers	Mariam Hasou, Naseen Karraz, Jennifer Saigh, James Saliba Jr., George Maloley, Joe Abraham	
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba, Jared Blackwell, Freddy Dahdal, Gus Sahawneh	
Hall Lock-up		Brigette DeRienzo
Coffee Hour		Open

## Sunday February 8

Epistle Reader	Hebrews 7:7-17	George Maloley
Greeters		Elias & Lama Mousa
Ushers	Krystal Saigh, Evelyn Kosobud, Anna Bronnenkant, David Ghiz, Sami Lorenzo, Tony Karraz	
Altar Servers	Chris Doumani, Brian Johnson, Anthony Sahawneh, Butros Sayegh, James Sayegh, Alexander Thomas	
Hall Lock-up		Dan Thomas
Coffee Hour		Theresa Sweilem

## Sunday February 15 Meat Fare Sunday

Epistle Reader	I Cor. 6:12-20	James Saliba, Jr.
Greeters		Aziz & Samar Haddad
Ushers	Amanda Haddad, Sally Ghiz, Enaam Hweimel, Elias Mousa, Dale Belt, Sam Nassif	
Altar Servers	Nick Kalinichenko, Rick Khoury, Alex Saliba, Abanoob Sayegh, Odeh Sayegh	
Hall Lock-up		Issa Sweilem
Coffee Hour		Kassab & Fudda Saigh

## Sunday February 22 Cheese Fare Sunday

Epistle Reader	I Cor. 8:8-9:2	Ken Haddad
Greeters		Hani & Amal Farah
Ushers	Mariam Hasou, Margaret Raymond, Suzanne Sayegh, Ralph Clair, Eddie Hweimel, Mike Ziton	
Altar Servers	Joseph Hasou, Michael Aboud-Rihani, Ramy Khoury, Issa Sayegh, Ronnie Sayegh	
Hall Lock-up		Aziz Haddad
Coffee Hour		Open

## Sunday February 29 Sunday of Orthodoxy

Epistle Reader	Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40	Marion Saba
Greeters		Maram & Eva Quomsieh
Ushers	Eva Quosmieh, Salwa Nassar, Irene Saigh, Hani Sayegh, Richard Saba, Ray Toronto	
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba, Jared Blackwell, Freddy Dahdal, Gus Sahawneh	
Hall Lock-up		Heather Sayegh
Coffee Hour		Open

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## House Blessing 2004

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete below and Fr. Chris will call you to make an appointment

The most convenient **Day** and **Time**: *Please Check one or more*

Tues.  Wed.

Morning (9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon)

Thurs.  Fri.  Sat.

Afternoon (1:00 p.m.-5:00 pm)