

**THE SPIRIT OF ST.
GEORGE**

JANUARY 2005 (MONTHLY EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST)

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

**SPECIAL
POINTS
OF IN-
TEREST:**

- **Youth Connection**
- **Letter From Deacon Raphael**
- **January Calendar**
- **Letter From Ladies Auxiliary**
- **New Faces**

**Statement/Appeal Regarding the
Tsunami in the Indian Ocean Basin**

DECEMBER 29, 2004

Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Members of the Board of Trustees, and Beloved Clergy and Faithful of this God-Protected Archdiocese:

We hope and trust that you have had a most blessed and joyful Nativity celebration. We are writing to you on the threshold of a New Year which we pray will be filled with peace and tranquility throughout the world. It is in this spirit that we also make this appeal to you.

You have all no doubt been following the news of the terrible devastation in Southern Asia, in the wake of the powerful tidal waves that swept across the Indian Ocean, striking the countries of Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Burma, and Malaysia. The current esti-

mates place the number of dead in excess of 60,000, with disaster experts predicting that the death toll could reach 100,000. This does not account for the enormous numbers of injured and homeless people due to this tragedy.

In my entire life, I have not witnessed a natural disaster that has caused human tragedy on this scale. It brings pain to all of us that the people in this part of the world, who already suffer more than their share of poverty, must also endure this suffering. Two of the Fathers of the Holy Orthodox Church speak with power and conviction regarding our responsibility as Christians in this time of need:

"The price of the Kingdom is the food that you give to those who need it." – St.

Leo the Great

"Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." – St. John Chrysostom

We completely support the efforts of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to respond to this emergency need. We call on all members of this Archdiocese to contribute generously to this appeal through the IOCC. Specific information on how to contribute can be found at www.iocc.org/news/12-27-04.shtml

Praying that you will have a blessed New Year, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

**Metropolitan PHILIP
Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All
North America**

LIVE FROM THE CLASSROOM!

Dear Friends and Family,

This year the 3rd and 4th grade class has brought a new experience in its own. Since the beginning of the year, each student has actively participated in the learning curriculum. The course focuses on sharing, not only in the materialistic aspect of it, but also in learning how to share our thoughts and prayers with each other and God. We can only pray that this year continues with such the optimism that it has brought so far. Please remember that the learning is not only held in the classroom, but also in our every day lives. We pray that you will also help us continue the teaching at home. God Bless you all and have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Martha Bitar and Krystal Saigh

Take time to think;
it is the source of power.

Take time to read;
it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to play;
it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be quiet;
it is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time to be aware;
it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved;
it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh;
it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly;
it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream;
it is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray;
it is the greatest power on earth.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

PATHWAYS RESUMES- January 4th, 2005

TEEN BIBLE STUDY RESUMES- January 5th, 2005

SOYO MEETING- January 15th, 2005

SOYO SKI TRIP- January 21st- 23rd, 2005

SOYO TRIP TO ST. ANTHONY'S MONASTERY-

January 29th, 2005

IOCC "SOUP"ER BOWL SUNDAY- February 6th, 2005

SOYO MEETING- February 12th, 2005

SOYO NIGHT OUT TO THE DRIVE-IN!

February 26th, 2005

Beginning in January, SOYO will be visiting the Phoenix Mountain Nursing Home on the last Sunday of every month. We will leave after Sunday School. All are welcome to join us!

LET'S RECHARGE OUR BATTERIES FOR OUR CHILDREN!

I pray that as this New Year rolls around that we keep our children and their lives in Christ on the top of our priority list! Sunday School attendance has been good, but not great. It is our responsibility to bring up our children with school and future occupations in their minds, but if Christ isn't there, than the most important things have not been learned. If they know the Lord and know His will for them, they will be diligent and intelligent with all their responsibilities and decisions. True success is not found in A's and 6 digit salaries, but in a humble heart and a committed life to the Gospel. God bless us all and give us strength to be Light for our children, and always show them the right way by walking in the footsteps of Christ ourselves.

The Lord said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea." ~ Mark 9:42.

~ Katrina

THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Dear members of our Parish:

On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, we wish you a Happy New Year. May the year 2005 fulfill your wishes with blessed contentment and joy.

As a volunteer of the United Food Bank in my community, I have firsthand knowledge of the need to contribute food to the disadvantaged. As you know, one of Father Chris' goals has always been his outreach to the needy. The Ladies Auxiliary fulfills this goal by gathering food and giving it to the Paradise Valley Food Bank. A bin is situated in the narthex every Sunday. Whenever you have an overflow in your cupboard, please remember those who are not as lucky. Any food product that is packaged is always acceptable. However, we are unable to accept perishables. I quote from Galatians 6:3: "If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself."

On another note, the Ladies Auxiliary will once again hold a two-day rummage sale. A date has been tentatively scheduled and will be announced shortly. However, start your spring cleaning a little early. We are able to accept donations whenever you wish. Your donations will be placed in storage until the day of the sale. In addition, anyone who wishes to assist us on the day of the sale is always welcome.

Ladies, our February meeting will be a trip down memory lane. We want you to pull out your wedding picture and bring it to the meeting on February 3^d. It should be fun for all. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the New Year, which will be held on Thursday, January 6th.

Sincerely,

Lillian Macoule

NEW FACES

Mike and Angie Guidi reside on the west side and have two grown boys, one that is attending ASU and lives in Chandler and the other son works in sales and resides at home. Mike is currently in construction hauling equipment and Angie is a transcriptionist for a radiology department at a local hospital. Mike and Angie met when she was in junior high and he was in high school as he was the best friend of Angie's brother-in-law. They are originally from the western suburbs of Chicago and have been in Arizona 10 years. Michael was Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Faith at St. George on December 21, 2004.



Surrounded By A Cloud

St. Sylvester, Bishop of Rome

St. Sylvester was Bishop of Rome from the years 314 to 335. This means, of course, that he was the first Bishop appointed after the Edict of Milan, Emperor Constantine's toleration and legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

He was born to Christian parents on or about 280. Unfortunately his father, Rufinias, died when Sylvester was a boy. His mother Justa, arranged for his Christian education and he was tutored by a priest, Fr. Quirinus.

His Christian education was put to good use. As a young man Sylvester led an exemplary life of loving his neighbors, He took strangers into his home. He treated these guests well, taking on the role of servant, washing their feet in addition to feeding and clothing them.

One guest, Timothy (a Bishop of Antioch?) stayed with Sylvester for more than a year while fearlessly preaching the Gospel to many, and receiving many into the Church. This was during the great persecution of Christians by Diocletian. Timothy, for his preaching became a martyr.

Sylvester secretly obtained Timothy's body and buried him. For this action he was taken into custody, stood trial, was tortured and found guilty for practicing his faith in Jesus Christ. Were his Roman persecutors looking for some supposed valuable possessions of Timothy? While on trial Sylvester told his judge, "Timothy left to me only the heritage of his faith and courage."

Awaiting his own martyrdom, his judge died and for some reason Sylvester was released from prison. Now he became a fearless evangelist. For his ardent faith, he was ordained a Deacon and eventually elevated to Bishop of Rome. This was an important time for the Church. Because of the Edict of Milan, many more would come to Christ who had to be accommodated to celebrate the faith. In his service he oversaw the building of 65 churches in or near Rome.

St. Sylvester and his mother were excellent examples for us today. His mother made sure her son had a solid Christian education. She made sure he would lead a life of devotion to Christ and service to others. As a young man he turned his faith into action. He associated with those who continued to build his faith, Timothy at least. After his torture he lived his faith even more intensely. He seemed to live his life with a sense of urgency.

It is said that St. Sylvester was an expert on the scriptures. If there was one verse that could describe his life, it is II Corinthians 6:2, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." Let us also discover the secret of this Bible verse. Pray for us St. Sylvester!

By Deacon Raphael

January 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 No Great Vespers
2 Orthros 8:50am Div. Liturgy 10am Sun Sch 11am	3	4 PATHWAYS & Bible Study 6:30pm	5 6:30pm Divine Liturgy Epiphany Great Blessing Of Water	6 Ladies Aux. Meeting 11:30am	7	8 NO Great Vespers Baptism of
9 Orthros 8:50am Div. Liturgy 10am Sun Sch 11am	10	11 PATHWAYS & Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Teen Bible Study 6:30pm	13 Parish Coun- cil Mtg 6:30pm	14	15 Great Vespers 5pm Parish Trip to Southwest Museum 11am
16 Orthros 8:50am Div. Liturgy 10am Sun Sch 11am	17	18 PATHWAYS & Bible Study 6:30pm	19 10am Soc. Of St. An- drew Presen- tation Teen Bible Study	20	21 SOYO SKI TRIP	22 Great Vespers 5pm SKI TRIP
23 Orthros 8:50am Div. Liturgy 10am Sun Sch 11am SKI TRIP	24	25 PATHWAYS & Bible Study 6:30pm	26 Teen Bible Study 6:30pm	27	28	29 Great Vespers 5pm
30 Orthros 8:50am Div. Liturgy 10am Sun Sch 11am Annual Parish Mtg						

January 2005

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Epistle Readers	II Tim. 4:5-8 Scott Ferris	Eph. 4:7-13 Luvenia Sayegh	Col. 3:4-11 Irene Saigh	Tim. 1:15-17 Richard Nichols	Heb. 13:17-21 Becky Abrahams
Greeters	Ralph & Jeanette	Ken & Lynda	Elias & Lama	Daniel & Jane	Bruce & Lorraine
Ushers	Amanda Haddad Molly Abrahams Kathy Sayegh Tony Karraz Davie Ghiz Ralph Clair	Mariam Hasou Lama Mousa Anna Bronnenkant Joe Abraham Sami Lorenzo Sam Nassif	Tess Bronnenkant Sally Ghiz Marion Saba Richard Nichols Mike Ziton Hani Sayegh	Zubeida Horan Enaam Hweimel Margaret Raymond Ray Toronto Richard Saba Hani Farah	Amanda Sahawneh Lillian Macoule Suzanne Sayegh Aziz Haddad Majed Sayegh Bob Foster
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba Jared Blackwell Freddy Dahdal Gus Sahawneh Joseph Sayegh Matthew Cross	Chris Doumani Brian Johnson Anthony Sahawneh Butros Sayegh James Sayegh Alexander Thomas	Nick Kalinichenko Rick Khoury Alex Saliba Abanoob Sayegh Odeh Sayegh Steve Skouba Gersey Mousa	Joseph Hasou Joseph Salem Ramy Khoury Issa Sayegh Ronnie Sayegh Anthony bitar	Mathew Saliba Jared Blackwell Freddy Dahdal Gus Sahawneh Joseph Sayegh Matthew Cross
Hall Lock-up	Dan Thomas	Marion Saba	Joyce Bogues	Khalil Saigh	John Doumani
Coffee Hour	Tony & Bonnie Karraz	Open	Open	Kay Slanta	Open

Baptism

Kale Danielle Nowlin November 7, 2004

Parents: Daniel & Elaine Nowlin

Hannah Marie Elliott December 4, 2004

Parents: Gary & Tina Elliott

William Musallam December 5, 2004

Parents: Raed & Dana Musallam

David Allan Solheim December 22, 2004

Parents: John & Rhonda Solheim

Chrismations

Caroline Marlene Dukart December 21, 2004

Jerry Paul Sanders December 21, 2004

House Blessing 2005

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. Thurs. Fri. Sat.

Morning (9:00am-12:00 noon) Afternoon (1:00pm-5:00pm)

We are on the web!

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**ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

St. George Antiochan Orthodox Church
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Organization

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Please Note the email address change for Fr.

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	5:00 p.m.
Sun. Matins	8:50 a.m.
Sun. Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:00 a.m.
Evening Feast Days	6:30 p.m.

Confessions are heard the following times, or by making an appointment with Fr. Christopher:
Saturdays 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays 9:00-9:25 a.m.

Parishioners are encouraged to submit articles for consideration.

Please note the deadline for submitting articles for approval is the 10th of each month before issue date.



January 6th Epiphany
Great Blessing of the Water