

# THE SPIRIT OF ST. GEORGE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Spirit of St. George

Monthly except July/August

Volume XVI Number 6

June 2009

*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North  
America  
& of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West  
4530 E. Gold Dust Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85028-4221*

## Putting On The Whole Armor Of God

(Part One)

Deacon Anthony J. Blackwell

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

-- Ephesians 6:10-18

**The Apostle Paul wrote an Epistle to you.** He also wrote Epistles to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Phillipians, but let's talk about the one that he specifically wanted you, personally, to read. The Epistle that I'm talking about is known today as "Ephesians." Paul wrote it around the year 62 A.D. while imprisoned in Rome. But the words, "to the Ephesians," are not found in the earliest and most reliable ancient manuscripts. Some scholars, citing Col 4:16 speculate that letter known to us as Ephesians was sent first to Laodicea in Macedonia, and then circulated to Ephesus and other cities in Asia Minor. The fact of the matter remains, however, that Paul did not address this Epistle to any specific local church.

**The Apostle Paul wrote about how to be a better Christian.** Paul does not use the Epistle to talk to the clergy about church order or administration. He does not write to people in a certain region, or under a particular jurisdiction, or from a specific ethnic or cultural background. He does not write as a monk, to monks, about how to lead a monastic life.

Rather, Paul speaks simply to the Church -- the *Ecclesia*, the assembly of the people in the service of God -- about how to be a better Christian.

**Check your mail.** The Apostle Paul intended this Epistle to be read in every church, and by everyone. And while the church of Ephesus took pride in claiming this Epistle as their own, the letter is best understood to be written to the saints and the faithful in Christ Jesus everywhere.

Are you one of the "faithful in Christ Jesus?" Then you have mail.

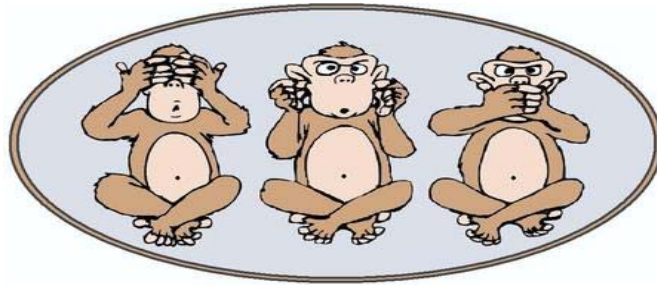
*Ephesians is a letter, from the Apostle Paul, intended for all churches and all the faithful.*

*Ephesians is a letter, from the Apostle Paul, intended to be read personally by you.*

(Continued on page 2)

*Open the Bible and read the letter.*

**Three Monkeys: See Nothing, Hear Nothing, Know Nothing**



Throughout this series, you will see me refer to the "Three Monkeys." I do this because we all put up blinders when we don't want to see something. Do you ever change the channel from a "Feed the Starving Children" commercial because it is "too depressing?" Do you ever find yourself wishing that the beggar on the sidewalk would find somewhere else to beg? When something is uncomfortable, we either move away from it, or we shut our eyes, ears and mouths and wait for it to go away. Everyone does it from time to time, which also means that, from time to time, we're just like the Three Monkeys.

When Paul says to "Put on the Armor of God," are saying to yourself, "Put on armor? What do you think I am, some kind of crazy religious militant?" Or how about, "Look, I have a full-time job and a family; when do you expect me to wear "Armor?" What about, "I lead a good life, I'm nice to people, I go to Church, I even pray at night. I'm not in a war, so what do I need armor for?"

Paul knew why spiritual Armor was necessary. Jewish zealots had beaten and stoned him. They had killed Archdeacon Stephen. And in just a few years after he wrote this letter, the Emperor Nero would set Rome ablaze, blame the fire on the Christians, and begin a wave of sadistic persecutions.

For Paul and other early Christians, the need to stand firm in the faith and put on the Armor of God was plain because the enemy was open and notorious. Today, however, the enemy is much more subtle. We are inured to violence and sloth through movies and videogames. We are accepting of lust and profligacy through advertising and so-called "adult entertainment." We are indulgent to -- if not partakers in -- covetousness and idolatry through televisions and music. Today, the danger to our faith, to our Christian life, and to our salvation does not come from a "mere" physical threat, but from a gradual, persistent erosion of our life in the Gospel.

The simple fact is this: *We need to put on the Armor of God even more than Paul or any of the martyrs.* Read the Epistle and find out what I'm talking about.

## St. John the Divine

**ANDRE HOUSE NEWS....**Our volunteer group will increase from 5 to 10 members beginning with our June 2<sup>nd</sup> date. Summer months at Andre House need more volunteers since many of the winter volunteers are snow birds who have gone back home, and locals, adults and teens, are traveling or on vacation.

Andre House is counting on 10 volunteers from St. George on our 2 dates each month, the first Tuesday and the third Monday.



Our St. George volunteers have never had a formal meeting so I'm planning a meeting on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy in the Conference Room. Adults and teens who are interested in helping us serve the poor and hungry, please try to attend. We are in desperate need for more volunteers. If you cannot attend, but are interested in serving with us, please give me a call at 602-989-5262.

We simply need to say "yes" to His call.

Jim Bagues

## Church Records

### Baptisms:

Matthew Wissam Shtaih ~ May 9, 2009

Parents: Wissam & Darin Shtaih

Zachary Sayegh ~ May 17, 2009

Parents: Carlos & Catina Segui

Brenden Segui ~ May 17, 2009

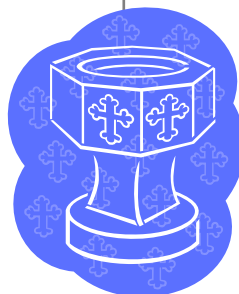
Parents: Carlos & Catina Segui

Matthew E. Khoury ~ May 23, 2009

Parents: Edward & Sandra Khoury

Joleen Marie Combs ~ May 24, 2009

Parents: Douglas & Ninvh Combs



### Marriages:

Firas & Josefina Kristic Arabo - May 2, 2009



## ***Bishop JOSEPH'S Visitations***

**June 28, 2009**

St. Michael Church, Van Nuys, CA

*Ordination of Deacon Ephraim Alkhas to the Holy Priesthood*



It's summertime again, and that means one thing. It's time for...

## St. George Movie Night

Movie Nights will be every Tuesday night at 6:30, starting this week, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Showing this week:

# "Night at the Museum"

**Admission: Canned Food/Non-Perishable Food Item**

Snacks and soda will be for sale. Proceeds go to Teen SOYO.

Bring snacks to share!

### Upcoming Flicks:

Wall-E

Bolt

Bedtime Story





## Announcing St. George's Vacation Bible School!

VBS is a 4 day summer morning program where kids have fun singing, crafting, and learning more about their Christian faith. This summer, the kids will travel back in time to ancient Rome to learn about Paul and the Underground Church.

**Location: St. George Church**

**VBS dates: July 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Cost: \$25 per child**

To register your children or sign up as a volunteer,  
please visit the following website:

**<https://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/mysite/default.aspx>**

**Questions? Call or email Katherine:**

602-953-1921    [katherine@stgeorgeaz.org](mailto:katherine@stgeorgeaz.org)

## June 2009 Servers

Sunday                      June 7

Epistle Reader	Richard Nichols
Greeters	Richard & Sherry Nichols
Ushers	George Odeh, Sarah Foster, Marion Saba, David Ghiz, Sam Nassif, Richard Nichols
Altar Servers	Jared & Caleb Blackwell, Jay & Ray Banna, Layne Larsen, Gergey Mousa, Brandon Horan
Hall Lock-up	Elias Mousa
Coffee Hour	Open

Sunday                      June 14

Epistle Reader	Becky Abrahams
Greeters	David & Nesrine Ziton
Ushers	Melissa Sayegh, Enaam Hweimel, Natascha Karadsheh, Mike Ziton, Ray Toronto, Richard Saba
Altar Servers	Chris Doumani, Andrew Stokich, Chase McBride, Chris Stokich, Mark Markor, Sayeed Sweis
Hall Lock-up	Hanna Saigh
Coffee Hour	Open

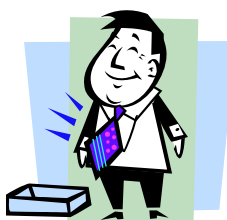
Sunday                      June 21

Epistle Reader	Anna Bronnenkant
Greeters	Hani & Amal Farah
Ushers	Gus Sahawneh, Mary Karadsheh, Nikki Doumani, Eugene Kanaan, Aziz Haddad, Majed Sayegh
Altar Servers	Jared & Caleb Blackwell, Jay & Ray Banna, Layne Larsen, Gergey Mousa, Brandon Horan
Hall Lock-up	Alisa Jones
Coffee Hour	Open

Sunday                      June 28

Epistle Reader	John Doumani
Greeters	Aziz & Samar Haddad
Ushers	Zubeida Horan, Krystal Saigh, Amanda Sahawneh, Bob Foster, John Doumani, David Ziton
Altar Servers	Chris Doumani, Andrew Stokich, Chase McBride, Chris Stokich, Mark Markor, Sayeed Sweis
Hall Lock-up	Eugene Kanaan
Coffee Hour	Open

***A Very Happy Father's Day  
to all our Dads***

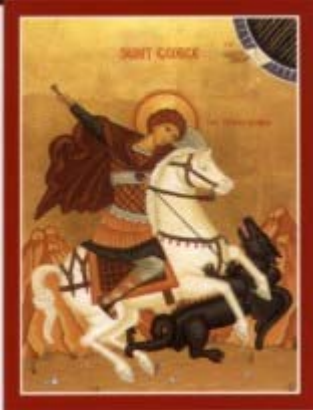




Visit our website: [www.stgeorgeaz.org](http://www.stgeorgeaz.org)

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

4530 E. Gold Dust Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85028



## THE SPIRIT OF ST. GEORGE

### Church Services

Saturday Great Vespers	Resumes in the Fall
<b>Sun. Matins</b>	<b>8:50 am</b>
Sun. Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>After Communion</b>
Evening Feast Days	6:30 pm

Office: (602) 953-1921 Fax: (602) 953-2460

E-mail: [abouna@stgeorgeaz.org](mailto:abouna@stgeorgeaz.org)

Office Hours 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday – Friday

The Rev. Fr. Christopher Salmay (602) 765-6069

Just a reminder ... Confessions are heard on Saturday evenings before Great Vespers, or anytime, by making an appointment with Fr. Christopher.

Parishioners are encouraged to submit articles for consideration.

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