

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Parish Program

**Ecclesiastical Year
September 2005-August 2006**

Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy, Pastor
Rev. Dn. Anthony Blackwell
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
4530 E. Gold Dust Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85028
Phone: (602) 953-1921
Fax (602) 953-2460
Web Address: www.stgeorgeaz.org

Dear Beloved Family Members of St. George,

To gather together in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is truly the most beautiful blessing God has given us. The Church that God has founded by His Son through the preaching of the Apostles is a haven for us to seek refuge from the chaos in the world. Inside the Holy Orthodox Church we hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ correctly proclaimed to us through the Divine Liturgy, the lives of the Saints, the Creeds and Doctrines, the Hymnody and the Iconography that adorns our beautiful Church. We learn of God's salvation for us and how we have been freed from the captivity of the Devil! We hear the Good News that God has set us free from Sin and Death and that Life Eternal awaits for those in Christ!

When the Church is seen as this true blessing from God, our understanding is no longer possessive, in the sense that the Church belongs to me, but rather our understanding becomes gracious and we are thankful to God for his bounties. We are then enlisted to take care of the Church that God has established to take care of us. A fire is lit under us to ensure that our home is not only maintained, but progressive and active, in order that we may share this Good News with God's other children throughout the world.

I beseech each and every one of you to make this new ecclesiastical year one that is dedicated to serving God and our fellow man by serving together in His Holy Church. Let us leave behind our excuses and commit ourselves to holiness and sanctity so that the portrait of our lives can be painted by God unto our salvation. Let us spend our energy on the upbuilding of our Faith, our Church and our Community. Let us truly become exemplary to our fellow citizens in the Valley so that they might all know that The Holy Orthodox Church is the fullness of God'

Your father in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy
Pastor

Office Information

Please call our office if...

- You are new or visiting St. George. We would love to send you information about our parish family.
- You or someone you know will be in the hospital. In addition to prayer, Fr. Christopher, or another cleric, will visit.
- You know of anyone who is a shut-in and would like to receive Holy Communion. Every effort will be made to bring the Holy Eucharist.
- You are in need of help.
- Your family has been blessed with a new child.
- You are preparing to church or baptize a child.
- You are preparing to marry.

St. George Church Staff

Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy	Pastor
Rev. Fr. Elias Ziton	Emeritus
V. Rev. Christo Christoff	Retired (BEOC)
V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kreta	Retired (OCA)
V. Rev. Fr. Rodion Pfeiffer	Retired (OCA)
Rev. Dn. Anthony Blackwell	Deacon
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams	Deacon
Katrina Bitar	Youth Director
Lauretta Gioia	Secretary
Michele Paise	Choir Director
Bill and Connie Bruhn	Custodial Staff
Michael Haddad	Webmaster
Rima Iacovelli	Newsletter Editor

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Phone Numbers

(602) 953-1921 office
(602) 953-2460 fax

Website

www.stgeorgeaz.org

Fr. Christopher's email

abouna@stgeorgeaz.org

Dn. Anthony's email

dnanthony@stgeorgeaz.org

Dn. Raphael's email

dnraphael@stgeorgeaz.org

Katrina Bitar's email

katrina@stgeorgeaz.org

Lauretta Gioia's email

lauretta@stgeorgeaz.org

Hall Rental

Please call the Hall Manager, Louis Hasbany at (602) 277-1963 or the Church office to rent our hall for functions or meetings. Special rates apply to members in good standing.

Weekly Bulletin

Submissions for our weekly Sunday bulletin are due **Wednesday at noon**. Please submit all information via email, in writing or by fax to the Church office.

Spirit of St. George Monthly Newsletter

Deadline for submissions to monthly newsletter is **the 10th of the preceding month**. All information must electronically mailed (email) and must be approved by the Church office. Our monthly newsletter is not printed during the summer months of July and August.

St. George Bookstore

A variety of books, icons and gift items are available immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Please see our Bookstore Manager, Evelyn Kosobud, for more information.

Worship Schedule

Saturday Evening

Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Note: Great Vespers is not celebrated during the summer months of June, July, August and September.

Sunday Morning

Orthros (Matins) 8:50 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Feast Day Services

Celebration of the Major Feasts of the Lord, the Theotokos and Major Saints are celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on the eve of the Feast. Please check the weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter for specific dates and times.

Lenten Services

Lenten Services include the Great Compline on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The Akathist Hymn (Madayeh) is chanted the first five Fridays of Great Lent at 6:30 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers is celebrated every Sunday evening during Lent. Dates and locations will be announced weekly.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School Education Program is held each Sunday following Divine Liturgy. Note: Sunday School does not meet during the summer months of June, July and August.

Pre-School – 8th Grade

Age specific classes meet Sundays September through May.

High School

9th-12th grades meet Sundays September through May.

Adult Bible Study

Adults meet every Tuesday in the Conference room at 6:30. Studies range across the Scriptural texts covering both Old and New Testaments. Meets concurrently with Pathways.

Pathways

Pathways is a program developed for the continuing education of the children of our parish family. We strive to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a fun atmosphere so that the children's education supplements and reinforces what is taught on Sundays. Pathways meets every Tuesday at 6:30 and is concurrent with Adult Bible Study.

Introduction to Orthodoxy

This Introductory course teaches the fundamental basics of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Topics range from Trinitarian theology to Icons and Saints and from Christological beliefs to Sacramental theology. This nine-week Intro course is offered three times throughout the Ecclesiastical year.

2005-2006 Parish Calendar Of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SPONSORED BY</u>
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		
1	Ecclesiastical New Year	
8	Nativity of the Theotokos	St. George
10	Sunday School Kickoff/Talent Show	Sunday School
11	Sunday School Begins	Sunday School
11	SOYO Kickoff	Teen SOYO
14	Elevation of the Cross (Day of Strict Fast)	St. George
<u>OCTOBER</u>		
1	Great Vespers Resume	St. George
1	IOCC Wine and Cheese Silent Auction	IOCC at St. George
7-8	Biblical Studies Seminar w/ Fr. Paul Tarazi	Parish Council
9	Regular Meeting	Fellowship of St. John
21-23	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West St. Peter the Apostle, San Dimas, CA	Delegates Meetings
29	Annual Fashion Show	Ladies Auxiliary
<u>NOVEMBER</u>		
11-12	Pan-Orthodox Ladies Retreat w/ Khouriye Frederica Mathewes-Green	at St. George
13	Fall Festival & Anti-Violence Rally	Sunday School
15	Nativity Fast Begins	
21	Presentation of the Theotokos	St. George
<u>DECEMBER</u>		
4	Nativity Program	Sunday School
11	Fellowship Christmas Dinner	Fellowship of St. John
14	Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins	Teen SOYO
25	Nativity of Christ	St. George
31	New Year's Eve Celebration	Fellowship of St. John
<u>JANUARY</u>		
6	Epiphany	St. George
29	General Assembly	Parish Council

FEBRUARY

1	Construction Begins in the Sanctuary	
2	Feast of the Presentation of Christ	St. George
5	IOCC SOUPer Bowl Sunday	Teen SOYO
24-26	St. George Annual Festival	Parish of St. George

MARCH

5	Forgiveness Vespers/ GREAT LENT Begins	St. George
12	Sunday of Orthodoxy/ Procession of Icons	Sunday School
25	Annunciation to the Theotokos	St. George
24-26	SOYO Desert Deanery Retreat	St. George /Teen SOYO
26	Sunday of the Life-Giving Cross	St. George

APRIL

10	Annual Lenten Luncheon/Fundraiser	Ladies Auxiliary
15	Lazarus Saturday -Sunday School Retreat -Altar Boys Workshop -Creative Arts Festival	St. George/Sunday School
16	Palm Sunday	St. George
21	Good Friday/All-Night Vigil	St. George/Teen SOYO
23	PASCHA!	
23	Feast Day of St. George	St. George
23	Children's Egg Hunt	Sunday School
25	Installation of New Altar and Iconostasion	

MAY

14	Sunday School Graduation and Parish Picnic	Sunday School
24-29	Parish Life Conference	St. George, San Diego

JUNE

1	Ascension of Christ	St. George
11	Pentecost	St. George
19-29	Apostles Fast	

AUGUST

1-15	Dormition Fast	
6	Transfiguration of Christ	St. George
15	Dormition of the Theotokos	St. George
29	Beheading of John the Baptist (Day of Strict Fast)	St. George

Sacrament Information

Confession

In the Sacrament of Holy Confession we are reconciled to God by repenting for our sins, and we receive God's absolution through the priest. For the healing of our souls we should receive the Sacrament of Holy Confession regularly throughout the year, especially during the fasting periods of Christmas, Great Lent, the Holy Apostles and the Dormition of the Theotokos. Confessions are heard every Saturday after Great Vespers, Sunday mornings until 9:30 a.m. and anytime by appointment.

Baptism

In the Sacrament of Baptism, one becomes a child in the household of God. In Baptism, the old, sinful way of life is put to death and as Christ was raised from the dead, we hope that we, too, might walk in the newness of life. Please contact the priest **at least** one month in advance to schedule a time **before** making any reception arrangements. The parents must be members in good standing at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. The sponsors (Godparents) must be Orthodox Christians who are members in good standing in their church.

Marriage

In the Sacrament of Marriage a man and a woman are crowned together to live the Christian life in unity as husband and wife. Please contact the priest well in advance to schedule a date for the wedding. **This must be done prior to making any reception arrangements.** Pre-Marital counseling is mandatory for anyone desiring to be married at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church and to receive an Ecclesiastical Marriage License from the Archdiocese. The bride and groom are to be Orthodox Christians in good standing in their church. The sponsors (best-man, maid-of-honor) must be Orthodox Christians who are members in good standing in their church.

Stewardship Information

The St. George Stewardship Program is one that enables our parish to fully function as an Orthodox Christian Church should: As a worshipping community that witnesses and serves her community while living in the love and fellowship of Christ. In order for us to accomplish this goal, we view Stewardship as: The proper, Scripture-based way of nurturing and supporting Christ's presence among us—the Church. *More specifically Stewardship is the "Voluntary, Sacrificial and Proportionate giving of Time, Talents and Treasure to the Church."*

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church Steward in Good Standing:

Any person 18 years or older, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Holy Orthodox Church, abides by its By-Laws, complies with the Archdiocese regulations, maintains a current pledge that is voluntary, sacrificial and proportionate of their time, talent and treasury.

Please contact the church office to become a steward of St. George.

Groups and Organizations

Altar Boys

For boys nine years and older. Please contact Dn. Raphael Abrahams at (623) 435-2056.

Choir

Rehearsals on Sundays immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please contact the choir director, Michele Paise at (623) 975-1757.

Sunday School

Meets every Sunday during the school year in the classroom building. Ministers to our children age 3-18. Please contact the Sunday School Director, Rachel Sheriff at (602) 670-8069.

Teen SOYO

Youth Group for children ages 13-18 (or have reached seventh grade). Please contact the Youth Director, Katrina Bitar at the church office.

Pathways

Continuing education night designed to supplement the Christian education of our children. Pathways is held every Tuesday night in conjunction with adult Bible Study. Please contact Katrina Bitar for more information.

Parish Council

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church office conference room. The President is Marion Saba (480) 991-0663.

Stewardship Ministry

Please contact the Stewardship Committee Chair for information: Mr. Bob Foster (602) 684-2620.

Order of St. Andrew the First-Called

The organization for the ministry to the elderly members of our family, meets regularly as scheduled by the priest. Contact Rima Iacovelli (480) 421-6486 or Rachel Sheriff (602) 670-8069 for more information.

Ladies Auxiliary (AOCWNA)

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the church hall. Please contact the president, Lillian Macoule at (480) 380-0896.

Fellowship of St. John the Divine

Adult fellowship group. Holds regular meetings/events throughout the year. Please contact the president, Joe Macoule at (480) 380-0896.

Young Adult Fellowship

Fellowship for anyone ages 25-40. Please contact John and Michele Paise at (623) 975-1757 for more information.

Hospitalers

Our ministry to visit the sick in a local hospital. Visitations are every other Sunday and begin after Communion, returning during Coffee Hour. For more information please contact Ted Lengyel-Leahu at (602) 992-0297.

OMO

Orthodox Mothers Organization. This new ministry meets every third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Babysitting is provided while young mothers meet together for Bible Study, faith exploration, and fellowship. Other events for mother and child(ren) are scheduled throughout the year. For more information contact Jennifer Baker at (480) 861-4497 or Rhonda Hallal at (480) 563-8366.