

December 2023

# THE VINE

# الكرمة

“I AM THE VINE AND YOU ARE  
THE BRANCHES” (JOHN 15:5)



1922-2023

انا هو الكرمة و انتم الاغصان

*The Monthly Newsletter of*

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio**

*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

Dear Faithful in the Lord,  
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



The Christmas Season is full of traditions, such as: Christmas trees, lights, decorations, stockings, cookies, carols, Santa, presents, special movies and shows, stories, pageants, concerts, and even the ‘elf on the shelf.’ That’s quite a few traditions, and there are plenty more. There is even a market for ‘ugly Christmas sweaters!’

What does the Church teach us about traditions? St. Paul teaches us to ‘stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.’ (2 Thes. 2:15) Of course, St. Paul isn’t speaking of man-made or family traditions but rather Holy Tradition, which is the apostolic teaching (oral or written) in the Church that conveyed the Gospel of Christ. For us believers, we are called to sanctification and to live a life of holiness within the Church through the holy sacraments. The two sacraments that we are called to ‘hold and stand fast in’ throughout our lives are Confession and Holy Communion. Thus, we receive divine sanctification, healing and ultimately are led by God’s grace to our salvation in Christ.

Whenever we celebrate the holy feasts of the church, we do so by not offering a concert or play but by celebrating the Divine services of the church (Vespers, Matins and Divine Liturgy). This is Holy Tradition. If we prepare ourselves to receive Holy Communion, we then prepare ourselves to receive Christ. We Christians who were baptized and received a new birth through water and the spirit are born into the Kingdom of Heaven and we receive the Heavenly Food every time we receive of Christ in Holy Communion. Thus, our heavenly ‘birthrights’ are fulfilled each time and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. If we choose to live a life without Christ and the Holy Tradition of the Church, we establish our own traditions that we create, engineer and execute according to our own whims and desires. That is utter destruction, a recipe for disaster, and our heavenly ‘birthrights’ are handed over to the devil. We must stand fast and hold onto the Holy Tradition of the Church so that we can ‘turn the page’ and come back to the recipe of our salvation! Let us commend our lives to Christ and Christ alone! Let us remember the true traditions that actually matter! Let us celebrate His birth by uniting ourselves to Him and to His Church!

I pray that all of our beloved parishioners and friends have a blessed and joyous celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. May the Lord bestow His blessings upon each and every one of you!

In Christ,

*Fr. Michael*

# The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Basketball Tournament November 10-12, 2023





The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Basketball Tournament was held over the weekend of November 10-12. We gathered at the Hyatt Place on Friday night for registration followed by an evening retreat. The theme of the discussion was The Faith of the 3 Holy Youths in the Furnace. After the discussion, Faiz Simone and Jamie Shaheen led some very fun 'Minute to Win It' games for all the teens.



On Saturday, games were played at St. Haralambos and Worley Elementary. The games were fun, competitive and were each begun with a prayer. Thanks to our coaches Aaron Joseph and Faiz Simone Shaheen, along with all of our players for their hard work and dedication.

Here are the results:

Adult

- St. George, Canton
- St. George, Akron
- St. George, Cleveland



Senior (15-18)

- St. George, Akron
- St. George, Canton
- St. George, Cleveland
- St. George, Flint



Junior (12-15)

- St. George, Cleveland
- St. George, Akron
- St. George, Canton



We gathered Saturday evening for Great Vespers at our church, Next came the Banquet, Awards presentations and Hafli. The theme of the evening was **'The Sneaker Ball'** and Nejlja Shaheen and Company did a wonderful job decorating the hall for the occasion. Teen Soyo President Noah Shaheen welcomed everyone and awarded the teams with their trophies. Family style Chicken kabobs, Arabic rice, Grecian Salad and rolls were served at each table. A Hafli with dancing followed as well. After Sunday services, a farewell luncheon was held for our parishioners and out of town guests. Special thanks to the planning committee: Nick Michael, Summer Michael, Faiz Simone and Jamie Shaheen, Nejlja Shaheen and so many other volunteers who work very hard to make this tournament happen every year. Mark your calendars for the 26<sup>th</sup> Tournament next year: Nov. 8-10, 2024!



This year we are especially thankful to all of our wonderful donors who helped make the weekend possible: Nick Michael's employer, Pete's Restaurant donated all of the food purchases, many thanks for their generosity! Nick also donated the pizzas. T-shirts were donated by Aaron and Sarah Joseph. Thank you to all the parishioners who donated towards this event. Especially Dr. Kelly & Rhonia Shaheen, Adam & Laura Oakerson, Jim & Paula Kannam, & Leila Andrews.



# God Grant you Many Years!

- 12/01 Mimi Hardgrove
- 12/01 Cathy Silski
- 12/01 John Al-Bittar
- 12/03 Dr. Khalil Korkor
- 12/04 Marilyn Shaheen
- 12/04 Nicholas F. Shaheen Jr.
- 12/05 Laura Ann Shaheen
- 12/06 Julia Bender
- 12/06 Joyce Alkaied
- 12/07 Christopher Griffin
- 12/08 Michael Knetsch
- 12/09 Laura Kibler
- 12/11 James R. Martin Jr.
- 12/13 Michael N. Albert
- 12/13 Fr. Basil Shaheen
- 12/13 Macie Shaheen
- 12/14 Sutton Shaheen
- 12/14 Elizabeth Macris
- 12/14 Dr. Sue Saliba
- 12/14 Bea McPherson
- 12/17 Joseph Paul Cervo
- 12/17 Amal Michael
- 12/17 Moses D. Shaheen
- 12/17 Henry Alzught
- 12/20 Michael S. Shaheen Jr.
- 12/20 Huda Abou Ghanam
- 12/20 Renee Assaley
- 12/20 Zeina Aramouni
- 12/22 Joseph G. Albert
- 12/22 Daniel Albaugh
- 12/22 Eugene Cazantzes
- 12/22 Kathryn Jean Shaheen
- 12/22 Jonathan Thomas
- 12/23 Christine Albaba
- 12/23 Heather Panopoulos
- 12/23 Savannah Alleman
- 12/24 Ian Zahlouk
- 12/25 Sherrie Jacobs
- 12/26 Diana Albaba
- 12/26 Rania Fadoul
- 12/29 William Shaheen
- 12/30 Eliza Yoder
- 12/31 Janice Fernandez
- 12/31 James Strmac
- 12/31 Charlene Georges



On November 7, the Eve of the Feast of the Holy Archangels, we were blessed to receive the Mbatha family (Phillip, Noreen, Alice & Elijah) into the Holy Orthodox Church. "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!"

## Happy Anniversary

- 12/21/1963 Masid & Joan Shaheen
- 12/23/1979 Elias & Kamilia Abuzakhm
- 12/24/1987 Modesto & Connie Garcia

- Memorials - Memory Eternal
- 12/02/2013 Joan Shaheen
  - 12/03/1979 Mary Gallo
  - 12/04/1943 Louis George
  - 12/04/1956 Nazlee George
  - 12/04/1960 Elias Esber
  - 12/05/1981 Charles E. Shaheen, Jr.
  - 12/05/1999 Elsie M. Georges
  - 12/05/2011 Adebias Massouh
  - 12/05/2020 Donna Shaheen
  - 12/06/1986 George S. Esber
  - 12/08/1949 Audi Jacob
  - 12/08/1994 Jack J. Bender
  - 12/08/2004 Lyn George
  - 12/09/1959 Elias McCool
  - 12/10/2021 Mark Kibler
  - 12/11/1954 Mike Abraham
  - 12/11/1977 Charles Joseph
  - 12/11/1998 Frank Silski
  - 12/13/1940 Josephine Nimen
  - 12/13/1986 Selma D. Shaheen
  - 12/13/1986 Mae Kanam
  - 12/14/2021 Marie Shaheen
  - 12/14/1987 Harry P. Shaheen
  - 12/14/1988 Naseeb G. Shaheen
  - 12/15/1949 Najeeb Saikley
  - 12/15/1998 Nellie M. Shaheen
  - 12/18/1951 John Coury
  - 12/19/1960 Kaleel Nicholas Shaheen
  - 12/19/1997 Eassa Shaheen, Jr.
  - 12/20/2021 Jennie Kannam
  - 12/20/1969 Sadie Halbouty
  - 12/21/1926 Betros Shaheen
  - 12/21/1944 Patricia Ann Johns
  - 12/21/1974 William S. Shaheen
  - 12/22/1963 Dorothy Esber Shearer
  - 12/23/1995 Richard N. Esber, Sr.
  - 12/23/2005 Victoria Massouh
  - 12/25/1994 Michael Halbouty
  - 12/26/1984 Louise Esber Shaheen
  - 12/26/1999 George S.M. Shaheen
  - 12/27/1955 Rose Johns
  - 12/28/1969 Neffagie Shaheen
  - 12/28/2022 Ruth Halbouty
  - 12/29/1965 Joseph Haddad
  - 12/30/1959 Edna Chebat
  - 12/30/1965 Charles George
  - 12/30/2001 Shehab Asper
  - 12/30/2013 Emily Albert
  - 12/31/1982 Mary Rahal Ayoub
  - 12/31/1997 Victoria M. Abood
  - 12/31/2020 James Martinez

### Memory Eternal!

Our condolences to Carol Boord on the recent passing of her husband Don.

**JOIN US FOR OUR AKRON, OH 3ETREAT!**

Join us for a Pan-Orthodox retreat and learn what it means to come home to the self, come home to the household of God and be ambassadors of Christ's love in the world.

**LOCATION**  
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
755 S. Cleveland Ave.  
Mogadore, OH 44260

**DATES**  
Dec. 9, 2023

**WHO'S INVITED**  
Adults: Parents, youth workers,  
clergy, young adults  
Youth: Grades 6-12

REGISTRATION CLOSING DEC. 4. REGISTER TODAY!

TO REGISTER VISIT [WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS) OR SCAN HERE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	2 Vespers 5 pm
3 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am followed by St. Nicholas Day Celebration	4 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	5 St. Nicholas Matins 5:30 pm Liturgy 6:30 pm	6 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	7	8 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	9 Vespers 5 pm
10 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am	11 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	12	13 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	14	15 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	16 Vespers 5 pm
17 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am followed by Christmas Program (SOYO Pasta Luncheon)	18 Nativity Fast Compline 6:30 pm	19	20 Nativity Forefeast Vespers 6:30 pm	21 Nativity Forefeast Vespers 6:30 pm	22 Royal Hours 10 am Christmas Caroling 11:30 am	23 Vespers 5 pm
24 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am Nativity Services Matins 8:30 pm Liturgy 10 pm	25 	26	27 College Student Dinner at the Corbin's 6 pm Please RSVP to Fr. Michael or Kh. Mira.	28	29	30 Vespers 5 pm
31 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am	 Donations needed for Sunday School Christmas Gifts - Contact Fr. Michael.			 Thank you to everyone who donated socks through the month of October. We collected 460 pairs of socks.		



**The Ladies of St. George Luncheon at the Desert Inn: 'Gather and Give Thanks!' November 5, 2023**



**December Project:  
December 21, 9 am**

We are going to make up gift bags for 25 senior citizens who are residing in a to be determined local nursing home. We are planning on focusing on those individuals who do not have family or friends, and could use a little boost during the holidays. Because so many people in this age group have dietary restrictions, we are planning on giving things like toiletries, socks, notepads, pens, etc. We welcome donations for this project!

Please contact Father Michael, Sherry Albaugh, or me if you want to add anyone to our list to receive meals, and/or if you would like to help in any way. God has richly blessed us, and it is nice to be able to share our blessings.

Pam Huggett

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**OPERATING FUND JAN - OCT 2023**  
**TOTAL INCOME IS \$ 203,534**  
**TOTAL EXPENSE IS \$ 201,302**

*Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church*

Dear Beloved Parishioner,

Your attendance is requested at our annual parish meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2024 following the Divine Liturgy. This meeting will include pastoral, financial and organizational reports, along with the election of new members to the Parish Council.

If you would like to be nominated for the Parish Council, we would like to know by January 1 (no nominations will be taken at the meeting itself). A Parish Council member should be exemplary in church attendance, a regular participant in the Holy Sacraments (Holy Communion and Holy Confession), a good steward and an active volunteer at church functions. Each member should also be able to frequently attend meetings. Nominations can be given to Fr. Michael.

Voting members of St. George Church are 18 years of age or older, an active participant in the life of the church-Divine Services and the Holy Sacraments, along with annually fulfilling their financial obligation (stewardship pledge and Archdiocese assessment).

We look forward to your participation at this upcoming meeting and appreciate your continued faithful dedication to your church.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Corbin, Pastor

Greg Shaheen, Parish Council Chairman

Dear Sunday school teachers/students and parents, it is time to get our creative thinking caps on for the Creative Festivals 2024!

Mark your calendars - submissions are due:

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**



The theme is: "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

We will have an interactive exploration of the theme as soon as it is available as well as information packets!

Please see Liz Macris or Jazla Hilaneh in the bookstore if you have any questions.

Thank you and God bless!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/antiochianarchdiocese/53255471074/>



Creative Festivals 2024



**ST. GEORGE NATIVITY CARD**  
If you would like your name printed in the Christmas Card that is sent out, please fill out and send the form located below along with a **\$ 10.00 donation to:**

St. George Church Nativity Card,  
1118 Cherry Ave NE, Canton OH 44704

**Clearly print name exactly as you want it to appear on the card.**

***Deadline December 11***

*Print Clearly*

The St. George Antiochian Orthodox  
Church of Canton, Ohio  
1118 Cherry Avenue NE  
Canton, OH 44704-1036

**Live Streaming of Services on our Facebook page.**

(You don't need a Facebook account to access the page and view the videos)

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Canton, Ohio

<https://www.facebook.com/st.georgeantiochiancanton/>

Online Word magazine:  
[www.antiochian.org/theword](http://www.antiochian.org/theword)

**Online Giving Option**

**St. George Church has an online**

giving/stewardship option on our website.

God bless you for your support and we sincerely thank you  
for your contribution.



Online Stewardship Option:

<http://www.stgeorgecanton.com/stewardship.html>

You can also set up a bill pay through your bank and  
an automated check will come to the church (a free service).

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**

*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*  
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