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St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

**Best Wishes on Your
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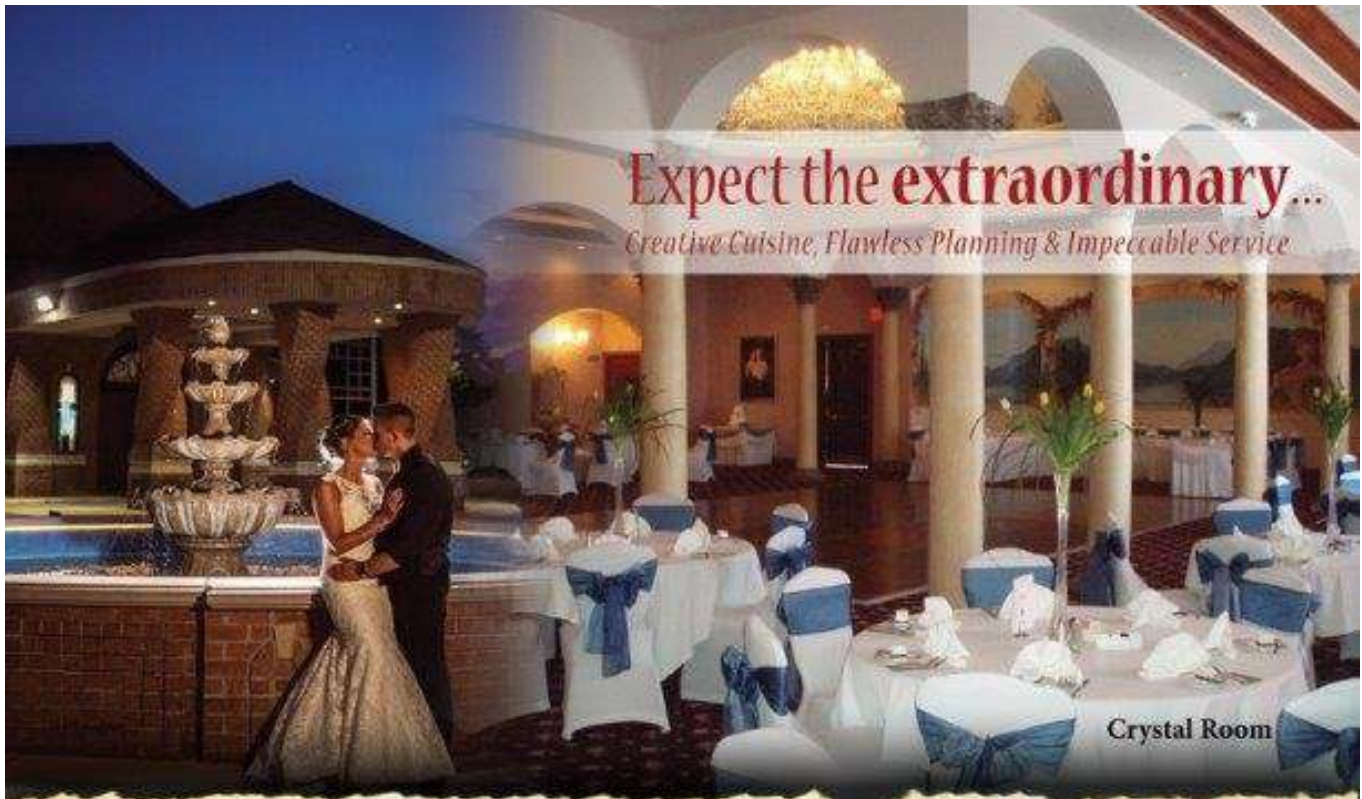
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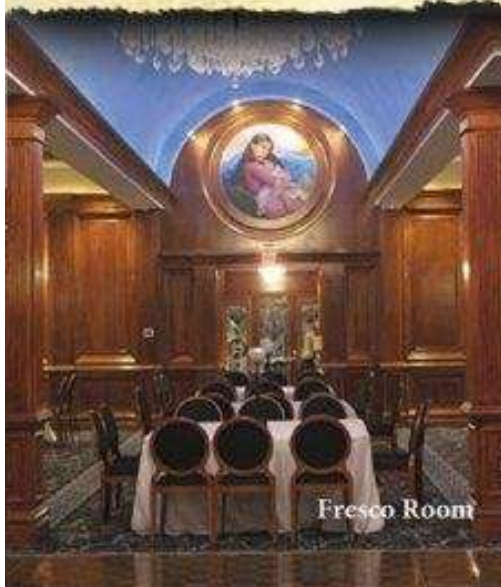
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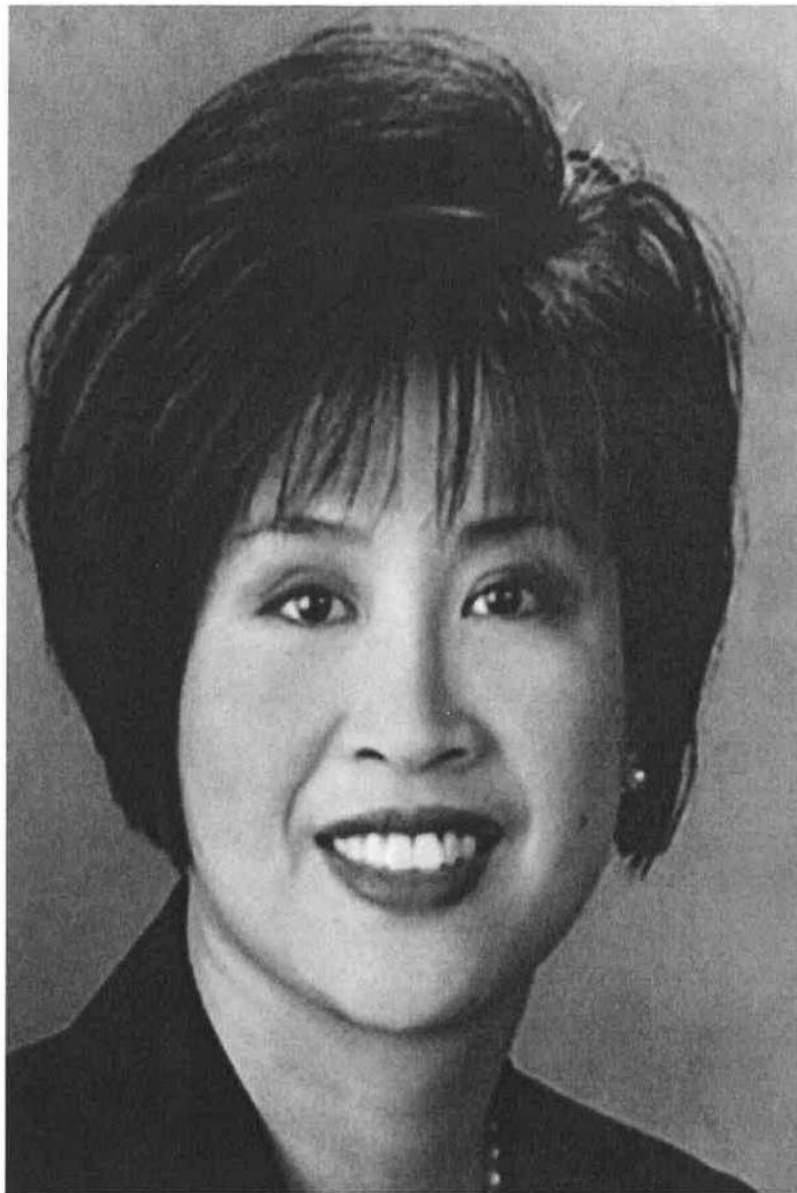
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**FOR AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY, BUT ALL THE
MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION, SO WE, BEING
MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY
MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER. ROMANS 12:4-5**





Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary!

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Congratulations!

My staff and I offer warm congratulations to St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all of North America, His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, Very Rev. Father Michael Corbin, Pastor, Very Rev. Father Basil Shaheen, AND PARISHIONERS current and past, on this 100th Anniversary! Thank you for your faithful influence and countless contributions to the Canton community. Celebrate the past and build the future!

Canton City Treasurer

Kim R. Perez

AND STAFF:

Mike McEnaney, Kelly Wackerly, Cindy Allensworth, Ann Rawley, Cheryl DiRocco, John Beckert, Rachel Meighen, Deanna Common, Richard Burton, Monique LaMarche, Starr Glass, Anastasios Kiskoridis, Aaron Tovissi, Kelleen Lumley, Frank Rizzo, Michelle Cooper, Kiersten Lillo, and Lesley Warren.

Congratulations on 100 years!



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4th Generation

Angela Forchione (Funeral Director)

The Board of Stark County Commissioners would like to congratulate Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church on their 100th Anniversary! We look forward to St. George sharing the faith in our community for years to come!



Bill Smith



Janet Weir Creighton



Richard Regula



**Congratulations to the Congregation
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MY STORY

A Collection of reflections from our dear parishioners

Below are the first minutes recorded with the goal of gathering as a church community
February 3, 1918

١٩١٨
جلسه الاولى

بعد ان كان عيد تقديس قد التفت قلوبنا من اجله من اجله فالتفت القلوب والى الله
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سليم وديانا وطلب بيوع السبع سفلانهم فتوانه جميعه راز ايجد راز نقدر كل كلامه يستحان
تم انبى الخدمه شاكر سيمان وحسن السبع مع الخدمه والتقدم في العمل والتفاهد مقدمه فارتفع
به الاوصياء الكرام ثم تقدم الخدمه سليم عليهم فالتفت فطلبنا سربا فاتي القاصد ومعه كل من
الوصافه يقسم الكلام وتتواصلا ويصافحهم جميعه دعاوهم احوال فأيه جميعه تقدم واحد عشره من
وتقدير الاساميه مقلداه عشرهم للجميع تشاروا بينهم الاضداد فاعلموا الى جميعه فشاركوا
الاصحاب ابراهيم خليل رئيس اوذا ثم اسيد ناسه رئيس اوذا سليم وديانا ابي اوذا
فارسا سيد ناسه ابي حذوره وخدمه فوledge اربع اشخاص وخدمه اوفاوه وديوانه وديوانه
ساده اسيد خنا مس يونس ثم فختت اجلس بعد ان قررنا الاجتماع في حق اوذا
اسب وديوانه بعد الاتى بتواصلا التفتت اجلس الى ابيانه واخذوا من احوال ركس الخدمه
فان الرئيس اوذا سليم وديانا فالتوانه الذي امر بتقدمه فقرأوا للاسبقة فالت
مواقفه لدى العظماء ثم سال اوذا سليم عليهم من ترانته فغدا وديانه فرائد اوذا سليم
تكونت اكثر من تدبيره ولا بعد فلهذا كلها واولها التفت بتواصلا اوذا ففاض ثم طلب
الرئيس له البريق في انتخاب نائب فالت في حق ابيهم الاموال الخدمه شاركه في اختياره
في جميعه مع سليم فقبله باستحانه تم انتخاب اوذا من حيث الالهه وابتدع
في حدود ابيهم الاموال الخدمه لمصنف دار جميعه بوليس وابتدع الخدمه ثم سال
الرئيس احوال الخدمه فقرأوا اهلهم وانا فقيدا اسماهم في اجلسا فيه فطلبوا القاصد
اربعه فربتت جميعه بهم ثم تقدم كل من اوفاوه الخدمه في حقهم فطلبوا القاصد
فارسا وديانته بايوس اسيد اجوري فتباعدت الخدمه جميعه فطلبوا القاصد
فتعلموا جميعه يكونت ركنه ثم مع مدبرهم دعيت اوذا سليم عليهم وديوانه في حال
السكران ابوس براهم فطلبوا القاصد وديانته فطلبوا القاصد
اسيد خنا مس يونس

THIS IS MY STORY....

Rafik and Nour Abou-Zakhim were married at St. George Church in 1968. They have been blessed to be together since then. Avid parishioners, served on the board and ladies club member for many years. Both coming from the beautiful village of Arne, Syria. Have been blessed with 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

We are blessed to have you as parents.

Love, David, Mary and Nour

My Grandfather's William S. Shaheen and George G. Nasseff came to the United States from Arne, Syria and settled in Canton, Ohio. They became founding members of St. George Church.

My mother, Lottie Shaheen married Edward Nasseff, they had 2 daughters, Carole and Charlotte. We have always been members of St. George Church and 20 years later I married my best friend, Frederic Salem Shaheen.

Charlotte Nasseff Shaheen

I have belonged and attended St. George Church my whole life. I had no choice, my Grandfathers Salem and Namen Shaheen were both Founders of St. George Church. My Father, Michael Shaheen was Treasurer. My Cousins George H. and Michael G. Shaheen were both Reverends in St. George Church.

St. George Church has been and is my backbone and my faith in God for everything I do.

Norman M. Shaheen—20th President of St. George Church Board of Trustees

Our family began attending St. George in 2020 due to all other churches closing in the area. This was at the time of the lock down during covid. Father Michael's church remained open for the faithful, and for this I am eternally grateful to God. We have been attending since then. I believe God heard our prayers in seeking a church for our children. Glory to God!

Phil and Heather Panopoulos

My in-laws, Namey and Hesun Abood, were one of the first members of St. George. Unfortunately, I did not meet my father-in-law, as he passed away before Ernie and I met in 1957 (married in 1960). It is with honor that they donated a stained-glass window—Namey Abood and Family.

May their memories be eternal, along with the founding fathers of St. George.

Diane Abood, Ernie, II and Twins, Elise and Alexandra, Nanci Abood McCollum and Luke

THIS IS MY STORY...

In the early 1900's, our grandparents, Ferris S. and Kaliak Shaheen and Joseph and Julia (Zarick) Shaheen, immigrated to America from Syria. They eventually settled in Canton, where they joined family and the Antiochian Orthodox Church. Our paternal grandparents lived in a neighborhood close to the church. Our maternal grandparent had a farm where family and parishioners would come for Sunday afternoon picnics and fellowship.

Our parents, George and Rose, married in 1941. They had two children, Very Rev. Fr. Basil (Frank) and Julia. Dad cleaned chandeliers, painted, fixed the bell, or made any repairs needed in the church. Mom was active in the Ladies of St. George. They were faithful members of St. George and instilled the Christian faith in their children and grandchildren.

Very Rev. Fr. Basil Shaheen and Julie Bender

Charles and Sadie Joseph

My parents were the second couple married in St. George on October 8, 1922. Dad immigrated to the United States in 1906 and mom on October 29, 1920 to Ellis Island.

They were among the founding members of the church and very active in fund raising and all church activities. After moving briefly to Detroit, Michigan, son Joe was born and passed away at age five. George was born there and they soon returned to Canton where dad was employed by the State Highway Department.

Resuming their life around their family and the church, Charles was a chanter until his death in 1955. Sadie was an active member of the Ladies Benevolent Society. George was an altar boy and active in SOYO then enlisted in the Air Force. After his marriage he moved to Toledo, Ohio and raised four girls who are very active in their respective churches. Leila was a Sunday School teacher, active in SOYO, church choir, Ladies Society, Middle East Dinner and Parish Council.

My name is Sadie Ellis Kannam. I was married to James Kannam on January 27, 1963 at St. George Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Two weeks later, we had our crowning ceremony at St. George, Canton, Ohio. So I have been in Canton for 59 years belonging to the New York Archdiocese. Due to misunderstandings of Hierarchs, we went to Holy Cross Church, New York Archdiocese for about 20 years until misunderstandings were settled. My two sons, Jim and Tom were baptized at St. George, Canton, 1964-1965.

THIS IS MY STORY....

The Massouh family's connection to St. George begins with our family patriarch, Fr. Spyridon Massouh, laying the ground work for the mission that became St. George in 1922.

When he came alone to America in 1902 leaving his wife, Hafeeza, and their four children—Rashid (Richard), Girguios (George), Adele, and Khairallah (Carl), he started as a peddler and then became a merchant in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. When Metropolitan Germanos Shehadi came to America during the Antaky-Rus era he represented the Antiochian Patriarchate. In his quest to build up the Antiochian connection he recruited Fayeez (Spyridon's given name) who had studied theology in Homs, Syria to the priesthood and ordained him in 1918 at his "cathedral" in Bayridge, Brooklyn—St. Mary Orthodox Church. Metropolitan Germanos also entrusted him with a territory of Western Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio. There were few Antiochian Orthodox priests in American in 1918.

As an itinerant priest Fr. Spyridon then visited communities in this territory including Cleveland, Akron, and Canton doing Divine Liturgies, baptisms, marriages, and memorial services and encouraging communities to start missions and ultimately churches.

In 1918 a group of Orthodox Syrians invited him to Canton to jump start laying the foundation for a mission and he was associated with St. George through its establishment as a church in 1922. In 1923 he again became an itinerant priest until he returned to Canton in 1929 and served until his death in 1940. Those early steps led to the opening of the Church that we celebrate one hundred years later.

My name is Katherine (Zeen) Shaheen. I was born in Canton and baptized at St. George Church in 1924. My parents, Assad and Najebee Zeen, sister Sonia "Sunny", and I lived in Cleveland but we moved back to Canton when I married George K. Shaheen in 1949. My late husband, George "Gige" was baptized at our church. We lived in a duplex across the street from the church next to my in-laws, Kaleel and Melaca Shaheen and their sons, Harry and John. George's parents were original members of the church. On most Sundays, after Liturgy, church parishioners would come over for coffee and to visit. You could say we started the original "coffee hour"!

Our three daughters were baptized and married at St. George Church. Norma married John Vega in 1974. Georganne married James Martin in 1975, and he received the sacrament of Chrismation in 1989. Sonia married David Eisenbrei in 1987 and their children, Daniel and Laura Eisenbrei, were baptized at our church. Over the years, we have enjoyed being part of the St. George community and are honored to celebrate this beautiful 100th Anniversary milestone!

THIS IS MY STORY....

CARL MASSOUH

- 1 Sunday School teacher, Donna Abood.
- 2 Melakie Shaheen. She lived across the street from the Church. I would go up the steps to her house and get the key to the Church, so the teenagers could have a teen meeting. I would return the key. She had a great grape vine in her back yard, and we would pick grape leaves. She had a gift that she would say Prayers healing a person.
- 3 Fred Shaheen (Freddy the Frog). A great friend from living one house away from my Grandparents, Nadeem and Zelpha Albert on 12th Street. After Sunday School, Fred and I would get to the front of the Church to the first pew. I would just look at the Icons on the doors and above the doors and see the Saints and the Colors. On the ceiling of the Church, Christ looking down on us, made you think about being good. The picture is now on the wall, as you enter in the Church. He is always looking at us. I was in Fred and Charlotte's wedding. Fred was in mine and Cheryl's wedding. One can say we are friends for life.
- 4 Dr. Loyd Shaheen (Dentist) directing the Church choir. Rosemary Shaheen playing the Church organ.
- 5 My Uncle George Massouh chanting on the right side; another person chanting on the other side.
- 6 Ladies on the left side; men on the right side.
- 7 Ladies had hats or a scarf covering their heads.
- 8 Tau Phi was Teen SOYO. Great Times.
- 9 The Archdiocese Convention. Akron and Canton churches worked together on the Convention in Akron. At the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Akron. Sam Salem wrote the Play "Back to Bladna." All I can say about the Convention was it opened our teenager's eyes about our Church and other Churches as one Church. Conventions were held in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and other cities that I attended. At the conventions, we had Name Tags. Everywhere I went a man with a big smile on his face would ask me if I am the son of Father Spyridon Massouh. I would thank that person and say I am his Grandson. He would nod, turn away, while wiping a tear away.
- 10 In the basement of the Church was a stage. Helen Shaheen directed a show, "South Pacific." I had a small part (a 1 liner). All good.
- 11 Easter was my favorite. Especially the Easter service. Being an Altar Boy and the entire Church singing and singing.
- 12 Father Michael Shaheen. I served as an Altar Boy.
- 13 At 18 years old after high school, I joined the United States Army. I was sent to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland. I was later transferred to Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio. When I bought a '54 Chevrolet from Ed Bendekgey, I was home almost every weekend. In reality no one knew I was in the Service. President Kennedy was killed 5 days before I was discharged. A sad day for America. One of many sad days to come.
- 14 The saddest thing is we only have 1-2 pictures of my Jiddo, Father Spyridon Massouh and no picture of his son, William.
- 15 Keep growing for another 100 years.




THIS IS MY STORY...

My paternal grandfather, Mike Asper was born in 1893 in the Syrian region known as Wadi Al Nasara, the Valley of the Christians. As a young man, he traveled to the USA with his father, brother and sister. His brother died suddenly at their uncle's home in Cambridge, Ohio. His father and sister returned to Syria but my grandfather stayed here and enlisted in the Ohio National Guard during World War I. He fought with the American Expeditionary Forces until he was honorably discharged in 1919. He proudly became an American citizen, settled in Canton, Ohio where in 1922 he and over 100 of his fellow countrymen held a meeting to build a church in Canton. Then he returned to Syria and married my grandmother, Salima. Together they had one son, my dad, Shehab Asper.

My grandfather returned to America, assuming my grandmother and my dad, now an American citizen by birth, would soon follow him there. It was many years before the rest of the family came to America. My grandmother and my dad along with my mother and siblings and I finally came to Canton in the early fifties. We joined St. George and have been faithful parishioners of St. George which is now 100 years old. Congratulations to all.

Milia Durkin



I was born in Canton in November 1966 (on my mother's birthday), baptized and have been attending St. George Church all my life. I have served on the Parish Council many times over the years as either a member and officer. In 2004-2005 I made history by becoming the 1st woman Chairperson of the Parish Council and then again in 2015-2017. To this day, I am still the only woman to have held the office of Parish Council Chairperson.

Andria Michael



THIS IS MY STORY...

My name is Bea Shaheen McPherson, formerly Bea David, and I am 100 years old. My father, Moses, and mother, Selma, came separately to America from “the old country” via Eagles Nest, TX. Moses used his father’s first name, “David,” as his last name. When he became a naturalized citizen, he changed his name to “Shaheen.” My parents were among the founders of St. George Church. My mother was pregnant with me when the church was being built. Before I was delivered, she was in the process of baking bread. The day after, our neighbor finished baking the bread. When the church was constructed in 1921-1922, each founding family contributed one of the sanctuary’s stained glass windows and my father donated the icon of the “Ascension of Christ” panel, located next to the right altar door. You can still see their names today. The ornate chandeliers and the 500 lb. church bell were also donated. Parishioners sat on original wooden pews. Later, the church purchased upholstered cushions which became worn from use, and then reupholstered at least twice over the years. In 2013, in memory of my husband, Bill McPherson, I donated the latest mauve cushions. The Very Rev. Father Michael Corbin helped me choose the fabric and color.

Many early immigrant families lived in homes within walking distance of St. George Church because they didn’t own automobiles. We lived in a two-bedroom house at 807 Rex Ave., N.E., ten blocks from the church. My father purchased a Pontiac for my brother, Charles, for high school graduation, which made traveling to church much easier.

One preacher I recall was Father Spiridon Massouh. Originally from Homs, Syria, he served an Orthodox congregation in Cleveland before being transferred to Canton. Father Spiridon loved popcorn, which my sister, Tess, now 98-years-old, made after cleaning the parsonage.

Families looked forward to Palm Sunday, Easter, Christmas, and other services. Parishioners, including my mother, would adorn candles with flowers.

A small choir, led by now-deceased, Dr. Lloyd Shaheen, sang from the choir loft. Weddings were performed in the sanctuary and receptions were held afterward in the lower level or people’s houses. Also held downstairs were church business meetings, Women’s and Men’s Club meetings, Sunday School, and Syrian Children’s school, taught in Arabic by now-deceased, John Haddad. Infants were baptized either in the sanctuary or the parents’ home, often in a galvanized tub.

My family continued to serve our church in various capacities over the years. I am a member of St. Ignatius. After my father passed away at age 51, my mother, who was 46, received a medal from Bishop Michael for being a caring and loving mother of nine children, three are remaining: Tess, Robert, and me. My sisters Nellie, Anna, Tess, and I sang in the choir while we were young. My brother, Charles, and my mother, donated grapes for a special service and oil for Easter services. Along with several other volunteers, I taught Sunday School upon returning home on weekends from college. When putting brothers John and Richard to bed each night, I read the Bible to them. My youngest brother, Robert, served as an altar boy. Now, little 5-year old Sammy Joseph, son of Aaron and Sara Joseph, is serving as an altar boy.

At 100 years old, we are now streaming the services on Facebook Live so that I and countless others from all over the world can attend, enjoy, and find meaning in the services. My deceased uncle, Youseff Dahoud Shaheen’s daughter, Salma Seman, watches our services from Damascus, Syria.

Happy 100th Anniversary! I am forever proud of the legacy of my and other families for starting this church and of the countless men and women, including our preacher, Very Rev. Father Michael Corbin, with the help of his family, who have poured out their hearts and love to make our church what it is today. We found solace, friendship, and faith – as so many others have the past 100 years and still do to this day – at St. George.

By Bea S. McPherson

November 9, 2021

تَكَرَّم الشَّاعِر لُوي مَسْعَد قَزْوَة بِهذِهِ الأَبْيَات الرِّجْلِيَّة
تَكَرِّمًا لِهَذِهِ المُنَاسِبَةِ الكَرِيمَةِ وَ اليُوبِيلِ المُنَوَّى المُبَارَكِ لِتَأْسِيسِ كَنِيسَةِ القُدَيْسِ جُورجِيوسِ فِي كَاتِنِ أُوهايو

مَسَا هَالْحَقِيلِ يَسْعُدُنِي صِبَاحُ
وَصِرْنَا نَشْعُرُ بِسَمَةِ طَرِيَّةِ
إِشْمَخِي يَا أَرْضَ كَاتِنِ الغَنِيَّةِ
وَيَا أَنْصَارَ الشَّاعِرِ عَنِّ صِدْقِ يَتَّةِ
وَ أَنْتُو جَنَاحِ طَيْرِ الشَّاعِرِيَّةِ
شَرَّفْنَا سَيَادَتُو بِنَاقِي زِيَارَةِ
التَّاجِ المُرْصَعِ لِنَا أَكْبَرِ مَنَارَةِ
وَ هَالْتَوْبِ الحَلُوِّ بِمَعْصَمِ الدُّنْيَا سَوَاوَه
اسْأَلُو شَمْسَ المَجْرَةِ بِالإِشَارَةِ

حَلَا هَالتَّاجِ أَحْلَى مِنِ حَلَايِي

يَا كَاتِنِ تَلِي إِلكِ تَارِيخِ عَالِي
مِنِ مِئَةِ سَنَةِ بِحُبِّكَ وَقَعْنَا
جِينَا رَغْمَ غَضَّتْنَا وَوَجَعْنَا
جِينَا وَجَابِيينِ قُلُوبِ مَعْنَا
لَكِنِ كَثُرَ مَا خَاطَرُو لِلضَّيْفِ غَالِي

أَتُو اليَاسِ مَا كَفَى التَّرْسَالَةَ

يَا سَيِّدِنَا لَوْلَا الحُبِّ إِلكُمِ مَا رَجَعْنَا
رَجَعْنَا نَزْرَعُ مِنَ العَمْرِ مَعَكُمْ

لِيلَةٌ بِأَلْفِ لِيلَةٍ مِنَ اللَّيَالِي

يَا سَامِعِينِ الشَّعْرَ هَاللِيلَةَ اسْمَعُونِي
وَيَا أَنْصَارَ الرِّجْلِ لَا تَغْلُوا
عَطُونِي مِنَ الدَّوَا التَّانِي وَ خَلُّو
تَمَانَةَ يَخْلُدُو بِأَلْكَونِ كَلُّو
التَّاجِ وَ المَطْرَانِ وَ الصَّلِيبِ اللَّيِّ بِجَلُّو

وَأَنَا وَ الحُبِّ وَ اللَّيِّ يَبْعَرِفُونِي

Louis Karoue
May 6, 2022



REMEMBER

WHEN





...Sunday School was at 10:00 in the Church basement with curtains dividing the classes.

...May 1969, St. George Syrian Softball team - 4; St. George Serbian - 2

...K of C picnic grounds—Minnie Abraham always did a great job running the kitchen.

...Sunday School sat altogether in front of the church; men on the right; women on left wearing hats and dresses—no pants.

...Tuesday night bingo—couldn't see the "No Smoking" sign from the smoke.

...Deeb Turk's beautiful chanting and sincere heart.

...Aunt Helen's (Shaheen) musical productions performed by the choir—Fiddler on the Roof and Amal, the Night Visitor.

...Choir practice was held every Wednesday night with Dr. Loyd Shaheen.

...Playing volleyball on Monday night and then set up for Bingo.

...Fellowship night on Wednesday in the Social Hall, bringing a covered dish and play games.

...Willow Springs picnics

...Arabic classes

...Fashion shows

...Fr. Basil taught the teenage Sunday School Class in the "little white house" and taught the Adult Sunday School Class before church in the lower level.



*Eastern
Orthodox
Youth
Council*

THE EASTERN ORTHODOX YOUTH COUNCIL

The organizational meeting of the Eastern Orthodox Youth Council of Canton and Stark County was held January 27, 1954. All Canton Orthodox churches were represented--Holy Trinity Greek, St. Haralambos Greek, St. George Romanian, St. George Serbian and St. George Syrian. St. George Greek, Massillon joined later.

The Constitution was officially ratified by the Council on April 12, 1954. A few of the Aims and Purposes as stated therein are: *To receive recognition by further introduction of the Eastern Orthodox faith as a united body to the public; To serve and assist our priests; To encourage regular church attendance; To promote and advance closer fellowship among members of the Eastern Orthodox churches of Canton and Stark County; To promote educational projects relative to the understanding and propagation of the Eastern Orthodox Faith.*

Three delegates and three alternates from each member youth organization comprise the Council. The pastors serve as Spiritual Advisors. Election of officers were held, and the outcome was George N. Shaheen (Hogan), vice president, and Carl Shaheen, public relations officer from St. George Syrian. An Installation of Officers dinner was held April 30, 1954 at the Mergus Restaurant. Guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Nicholas Cobbs of Akron.

Through the Council's action, the Canton Board of Education has recognized the holidays of the Orthodox Church; and pupils of the Orthodox faith will be excused, without being marked absent on their records, on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Epiphany and the Julian Christmas (celebrated by the Serbian Orthodox Church).

The official emblem of the Council was created by George Rados and appeared on the letterhead.

Monthly socials were held at various churches. A further project of the Council was the first series of weekly lectures on the "Greek Orthodox Catechism" which began October 10 and continued every Tuesday thereafter for ten weeks. The second series of lectures were held at the St. George Syrian Church hall every Monday of Holy Week and Holy Easter. The first social event sponsored by the Council was a dance held July 2, 1954, at the Moonlight Gardens, Meyers Lake.



The local Council hosted the meeting of the national "Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders of the Americas" on the week end of June 4, 1954.

Sunday of Orthodoxy observance was wholeheartedly endorsed by Canton's Sesquicentennial Committee as one of the projects of the City's commemoration. Ours, being the first organization which volunteered to participate. The proceeds from this March 6 Vesper Service were used for the purchase of books on the Eastern Orthodox faith to be presented to the Canton Public Library as a donation from the Council.

The Eastern Orthodox Youth Council of Canton and Stark County of which St. George Syrian Church was a member along with the other Orthodox Churches held the first combined Sunday of Orthodoxy Vesper Service. It was held on March 6, 1955, 4:00 pm at the Timken Vocational High School Auditorium in Canton, Ohio. The beautiful, large combined choir sang the responses in each ethnic language. The guest speaker was the Very Reverend Stephen H. R. Upson, Archpriest of the Syrian Archdiocese Orthodox Archdiocese of New York and North America.

This group also started the Mixed Orthodoxy bowling league which continued into the 1980's. Many couples met and married from this council group.

Then on September 1, 2004 it started up again and was called the Fellowship of Orthodox Christian Churches of Stark County. Its main purpose was to promote Orthodoxy and Fellowship.

In December a Christmas concert was held where the various church choirs sang ethnic and American Christmas carols. Before the Easter Lent, a joint dance was held called "The Last Blast before the Fast".

The Presanctified services were scheduled at a different church and also the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Compiled by Leila Andrews and Stevie Abraham



*International
Festival*

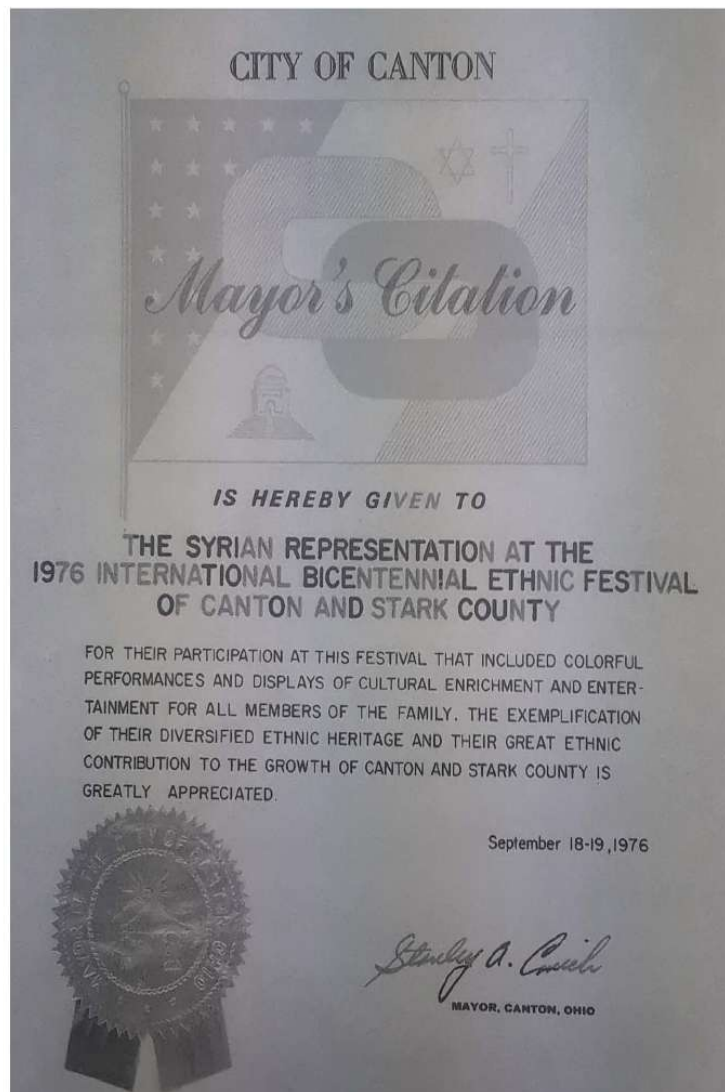
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF STARK COUNTY

The first meeting was held in 1975 at the Stark County Library with representatives from various nations. Ethnic groups were invited to send representatives in participation of nations for the Bicentennial Celebration.

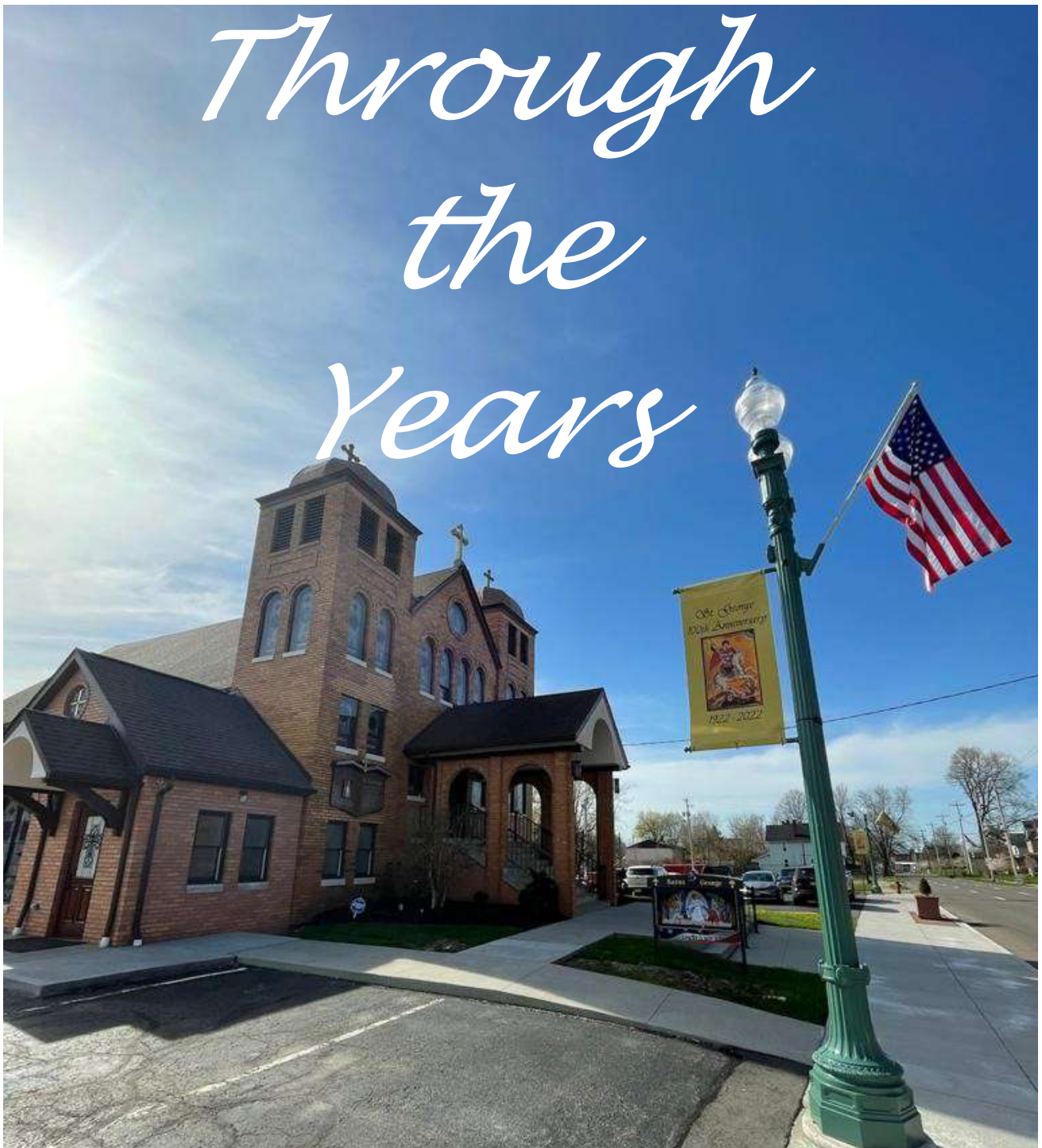
In a continuing effort to preserve their cultural heritage the charter nations incorporated in 1977 encompassing all of Stark County. As a result, the International Festival of Stark County was established.

Every year in September a festival was held at the Civic Center. Each nation decorated their booths with artifacts as well as dancing in native dress. Ethnic foods were sold at some booths. A parade of nations bearing their national flags beginning in downtown Canton kicked off the events. St. George and Holy Cross participated in dancing the Dabke North to the Center.

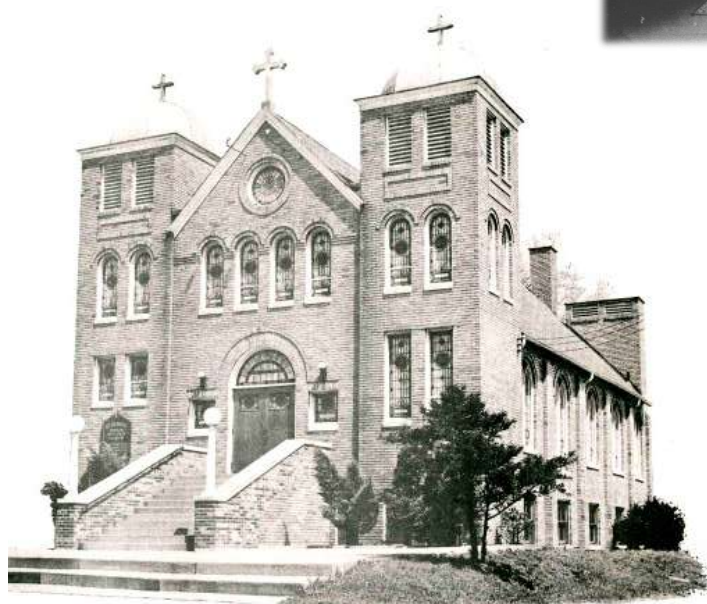
In all a total of 22 nations were represented. The festival was later disbanded due to a lack of participation.



Through the Years



1920— Founders of Church



Parishioners



1983



2012



2022

Sacraments - Weddings



Joseph & Minnie David
1922



James & Audrey Shaheen 1940



Ace & Peggy Shaheen 1953



Jim & Jeanie Tomey 1957



Bill & Adele Kibler 1967

Sacraments - Weddings



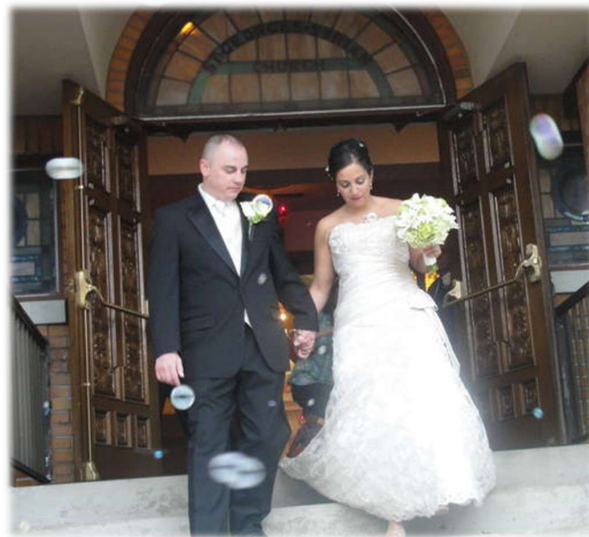
Fr. Basil and Kh. Linda Shaheen 1972



Dave & Sonia Eisenbrei 1987



Tim & Michelle Wires 2000



Patrick & Nour Kelly 2010

Sacraments - Baptisms



Lydia Asper 1956



Nanci Abood 1962



Dan Eisenbrei 1989



Max Bechara 1994



Antony Corbin 2011

Sacraments - Ordination / Elevations



Ordination of Fr. George Rados 1960's



*Ordination of Sub deacon KJ Shaheen
2007*



*Elevation of Fr. Michael during
95th Anniversary 2017*



*Elevation of Fr. Basil
in Akron 2018*

Teen SOYO



SOYO Officers — 1956



SOYO—1970

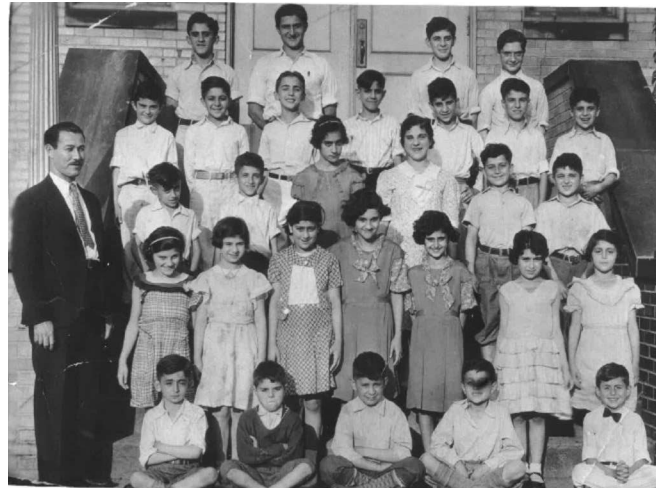


SOYO—1983



Teen SOYO Basketball Tournament 2019

Sunday School



1969

1982



Adult Sunday School Class 1983

Arabic School



Syrian School 1925



Arabic School 1935



Arabic School 2011

Events

ARABIAN NIGHTS



Leila Andrews, Louie E. Shaheen, and Adele Kibler

September 1959

CHOIR DANCE



Standing: Wedad & Helen, Nick Shaheen, Dorothy Deroche, and Leila Andrews - Seated: Millie ElFaye and Bishop Michael

1974

ST. GEORGE DAY



May 1980

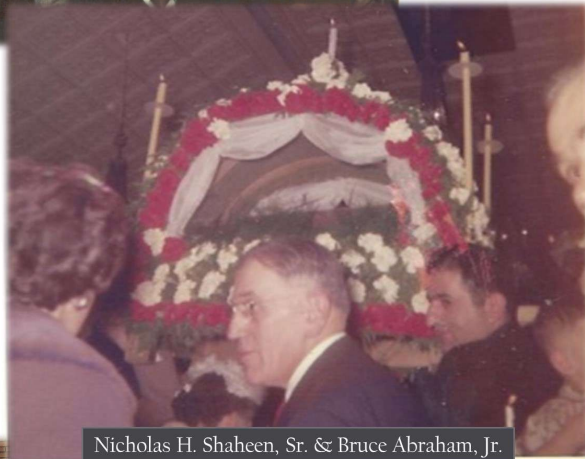


Christmas Party 2007



New Years Eve 2011

Easter and Palm Sunday



Nicholas H. Shaheen, Sr. & Bruce Abraham, Jr.



95th Anniversary 2017



Palm Sunday 2022



The History of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Canton, Ohio

The history of Canton's St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church is set in the historical drama of the millions of people who came to these shores to become Americans, to share in the promise of the American Dream, to share the rare joys of American individualism, and free enterprise. It parallels the establishment of the Eastern Orthodox faith in North America.

Included among the thousands of immigrants, who migrated to Canton, was a small group of Arabic-speaking Christians from the Holy Lands of the Middle East. They began arriving at the turn of the 19th Century. They came from Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Their homeland had been the birth of civilization, the birth of the Christian Religion.

Many of these Christian people were Eastern Orthodox. They were determined to continue their age-long religious traditions in their newly adopted country and they did.

From its very beginning, Canton's St. George had been faced with a series of imposing challenges. The first was getting started. The people were small in number, limited in resources; wages were low, responsibilities high. Each family head had a double burden – providing for part of a family in Canton and arranging for the rest of the family to come to America. The challenge was great. Their bonds to the Orthodox Church of Biblical Antioch strengthened them. It was in Antioch that the followers of Christ were first called Christians. For two thousand years, the Antiochian Church had managed to survive despite the challenges of respected wars, invasions, persecution. Surely the Canton Antiochian Orthodox people could continue their tradition in America.

In early 1918, 45 men met in a building owned by Toufeek Shaheen. They discussed the building of a Syrian Orthodox Church – speeches were made by Salem Darany, Shakir Slaman, Toufeek Shaheen, Salem Shaheen and Ferris Esber. These men drew up the rules for the future organizational meetings. On March 17, 1918, the first meeting of the St. George Benevolent Society was held in a hall rented from C.V. Best, on the third floor of the Shear Block building at 423 East Tuscarawas St. for \$45.00 per year. They met there every Sunday between the hours of 12:30pm and 5:30pm. Once a month, the Rev. Spyridon Massouh came from Cleveland to hold services for them. These founders were namely: Kaleel Abraham, Shakir Slaman, Salem Hannah, Esber Al-Hannah, Ferris Esber, Elias George, Esper Tomey, Shahda Eassa, Norman Shaheen, Salem Esber, Toufeek Shaheen, Kaleel Mackhoul, Georgeous Youseff, Kaleel Georgeous, Mousa Mackhoul, Habib Mackhoul, Sheik Salim Saloom, Nimer Esber, Ferris Assad, Elias Kaleel, Braham Youseff, Salem Darany, Salem Shaheen, Joseph David, Michael Sahadi, Nicholas Betros, Shahady Ferris, Abdulla Kaleel, Assad Betros, Michael Brahim, Elias Brahim, Wadeh Rahal, Shaheen Youseff Mrad, Michael Betros, Elian Abdulla, Youseff Abdulla Shaheen, Salem Musa Malooley, Brahim Michael, Najib Feris, Mousa Shaheen, George Shaheen Haddad, Assad Ferris Karway, Ayub Shaheen, Eid Elias Karway and Betros Shaheen. They elected the following: President – Kaleel Abraham, Vice President – Nimer Esber, Secretary – Salem Darany, Treasurer – Ferris Esber. The Board of Trustees: Uadeh Rahal, Mike Sahadi, Esber Hannah and Mousa Youseff Shaheen.

In 1919, the St. George Benevolent Society purchased the land, which is the present site, for \$500.00. In 1921, additional land was purchased for \$1,642.55 and the church building was started at a cost of \$22,396.33. Everyone in the congregation contributed what they were able to give at the time and soon their prayers became a reality in the form of a magnificent building at 1118 Cherry Ave. N.E. designed and built by noted architect, Charles E. Firestone and Associates. The cornerstone was laid in place in 1922. The cornerstone contained documents of current events and a sealed box of coins. Donations poured in, including furniture, twelve crystal chandeliers, forty icons imported from Jerusalem by Salem Shaheen. Five dozen chairs and a bell weighing over 500 pounds and costing \$300.00 were purchased. After the bell was hoisted into place, the onlookers cheered wildly and threw their hats up into the rafters.

At last, the long awaited day arrived on April 9, 1922, when the church was opened. Services were held at noon and evening every day that week. Thanks to God were repeated many times for His Divine help. On April 23, 1922 Metropolitan GERMANOS Chedhadi, Archbishop of Zahleh and Baalbek was the honored guest for the formal celebration. Climaxing the day's proceedings was a dinner at the Courtland Hotel.

In 1926, a general remodeling and gilding program was begun. Wooden pews replaced the folding chairs, carpeting was laid, gold leaf decorated the Iconostasis, and replacing the old ceiling was an embossed metal with an inlaid painting of Christ by Bernadette Audette of Canada. On March 3, 1930, the ordinary windows were replaced with stained glass windows depicting the Life of Christ.

On July 12, 1930, the church was formally dedicated and the celebration of the burning of a \$12,000.00 mortgage on the \$60,000.00 building. Participating in the celebration was the Very Rev. Antony Bashir, General Missionary to the Syrian Church, the Revs. Peter Azar and Spyridon Massouh.

On March 29, 1936, Archbishop THEODOSIOS, Metropolitan of Tyre and Sidon and Legate of the Patriarch, held services in Canton. Also present were Archbishop-elect Antony Bashir, Reverend Elias Meena of Cleveland, Reverend John Koury of Akron, and parish priest, Reverend Spyridon Massouh. After services, all paraded to the Odd Fellow Temple for the banquet. Entertainment was furnished by the St. George Orchestra, directed by James F. Shaheen. The first priest to serve the St. George Church was Rev. Spyridon Massouh at a salary of \$75.00 per month. Rev. Ibrahim Zaine succeeded him. In 1925, Archbishop VICTOR Abu-Assaley ordained the Rev. George Shaheen who served as the permanent priest until his passing in October 1929. Rev. Spyridon Massouh returned as the pastor, off and on, until his death on January 25, 1940. The St. George Church was closed for a 40-day mourning period until March 9, 1940 when Reverend John Koury was assigned here. Other clergy serving Canton St. George were the Reverend Fathers Peter Azar, George Trad, Anthony Sakey, Gabriel Barrow, Victor George, Michael Shaheen, Gabriel Samne, John Essa, Nicodemus Joseph, Joseph Rahal, Stephen Graham, Elias Saba, Theodore Ziton, who served for 22 years, John Nicholas Ozone, Joseph Cervo. Basil Shaheen and Michael Corbin.

Another special event our community was witness to in May, 2002, was the ordination of Frank Shaheen to the Holy Diaconate taking the name of Deacon Basil. On May 1, 2007, His Grace Bishop MARK and over a dozen members of the clergy participated in the sacrament of Holy Orders for Deacon Basil to the rank of Priest. Fr. Basil was elevated to Archpriest by His Grace Bishop ANTHONY at St. George in Akron on March 11, 2018. Thank you to Fr. Basil and Kh. Linda for their many years of service to our community.

Our church welcomed Fr. Michael Corbin and Kh. Mira in July, 2009. Fr. Corbin formerly served as assistant priest at St. George Akron and St. Michael's Louisville before coming to Canton. The Corbins are blessed with three children: Elia, Antony and Lucia. Fr. Michael was elevated to Archpriest by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop ANTHONY at the 95th Anniversary on April 23, 2017 and later appointed as Dean of the Ohio Deanery on October 26, 2021. Assisting in the sanctuary are Sub-Deacons David Tomey and K.J. Shaheen, along with the sacristan and chanter Iyad Bechara. We continue to watch our altar boys start out as little boys and mature into fine young men and we thank them all for their dedication and service.

Our church continues to preserve the memory of Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen in several respects, but one worth noting in particular is the Archbishop MICHAEL Educational and Charitable Fund. Every year, scholarships are granted to those qualified graduates who are members in good standing in an Antiochian Orthodox Church.

The first president of the completed church was Salem Shaheen, who was one of the founders of St. George. He was the catalytic agent who spurred the people in every endeavor. He organized charitable affairs, collected contributions and solicited ads from prominent people wherever he could. For his constant devotions to this great cause, he was appointed Life Time Honorary President of the Church in 1948 by Archbishop ANTONY Bashir, who also presented Salem with the precious medal of Sts. Peter and Paul from His Beatitude, ALEXANDER, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. St. George has always been guided by our priests along with the Parish Council. The last five years the chairpersons have been George Naseeb Shaheen, Andria Michael (First female chairperson in the history of our church) and presently Greg Shaheen. A special thank you to our longtime treasurer Mike Shaheen for his great dedication and service. Our council works to ensure good fiscal health, and the care and upkeep of our beloved church, social center and grounds, among other things. His Grace Bishop ANTHONY blessed both George Naseeb Shaheen and Mike Shaheen to be 'lifetime emeritus' members of the Parish Council in December of 2017.

The first president of the Ladies Benevolent Society was Mrs. Norman (Skeeyee) Shaheen. The Ladies Club was the perfect helpmate for the men in every project and lived up to its important name. The ladies were generous with their donations and the many social affairs. During World War II, they boxed 500 packages of Arabic pastries and mailed them to our service men at home and abroad. The club came back to life again on May 20, 1967 when they regrouped and reorganized with a new constitution and a new name "Ladies of St. George". Mrs. Kaiser (Amelia) Michael was the new president. The Ladies of St. George continue to be very active. Recent past presidents are Leila Andrews and Claudia Shaheen. Marilyn Shaheen is the current president. The Ladies have helped host an annual parish retreat and have support charities, including the Archdiocese Retired Clergy Fund and various orphanages. Sadie Kannam, a faithful servant and longtime baker of Holy Bread, was blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and awarded the Archdiocesan Meritorious Service Award, presented by His Grace Bishop ANTHONY on January 21, 2018.

The first funeral held in our Church was for 4-month old Elias, who expired April 13, 1922. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Nasseff. The first wedding was August 5, 1922, between Joseph David and Nimnum Betros. The first baptism was November 11, 1922 for Catherine Corey, daughter of Mike and Maheeba Corey. In 1925, the first multiple baptism was that of four Shaheen cousins: Salem, Jr., Nicholas B., Carl N. and Charles E.

In 1924, Canton experienced its first spiritual jurisdictional dispute: Antioch vs. Russia. Remaining true to our ethnic Christian Heritage, the majority rules Antioch. The trend was national, and Archbishop VICTOR Abou-Assaly became the first Antiochian Archbishop of North America.

In April 1936, we had a dispute over spiritual leadership: Antony Bashir vs. Samuel David, to fill the seat vacated by Archbishop VICTOR's death in 1934. A congregational vote was taken, and decision by majority rule made Antony Bashir our Primate.

In October of 1944, a 40-day Memorial Service for Malakey Shaheen, grandmother of Metropolitan MICHAEL Shaheen, brought together for the first time in Canton, in Pontifical Divine Liturgy, Metropolitans ANTONY Bashir and SAMUEL David.

On March 25, 1962, Metropolitan Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen of the Toledo Archdiocese conducted his first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in Canton. A Testimonial Dinner was held for him on June 24, 1962 at Meyers Lake Moonlight Ballroom with Metropolitan Archbishop ANTONY Bashir present.

In January of 1964, the Crusaders of Canton was organized and was dedicated to Metropolitan Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen and had Philanthropy as its purpose. Their annual charities are the Orphanages of Saidnaya and the Patriarchate Orphanage in Damascus. Their first president was Julia N.H. Shaheen. Longtime Crusaders President and Church Benefactor Sadie Shaheen was blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSPEH and was awarded the Archdiocesan Merit Award for her charitable works on October 23, 2016, just three works before her falling asleep. Memory Eternal!

In 1974, after 40 years of division, the New York Archdiocese and the Toledo Archdiocese made a historic decision to unite. It was agreed by their Eminences PHILIP and MICHAEL that the Primate of this United Antiochian Archdiocese would be Metropolitan PHILIP and that the Auxiliary would be His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL. The Holy Synod of Antioch adopted this decision on August 19, 1975. This merger unified both Archdioceses.

Metropolitan PHILIP fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Memory Eternal!. With his passing, the Holy Synod of Antioch selected a new Metropolitan Archbishop of New York and all North America on July 3, 2014, His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, who presided over our church's 95th anniversary on April 22, 2022 along with His Grace Bishop ANTHONY. We are again blessed by their presence at our 100th Anniversary!

Carl Shaheen was appointed to the Archdiocese Board and was re-elected and served for many years. In 1995, upon his retirement from the Archdiocese Board, Carl was made an Honorary Member for Life. In 1997, in recognition of his dedication to the Orthodox Church, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP presented Carl with the Antiochian Gold Medal. This is the highest award that is given to a layman.

Reference is hereby made of the fact that 8 men of the St. George Church of Canton were inspired to enter the priesthood, namely Father George H. Shaheen, Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen, Archpriest George Shaheen, Archpriest Joseph Shaheen, Archpriest George Rados, Archpriest Stephen Ziton, Archpriest Michael Massouh and Archpriest Basil (Frank) Shaheen..

Sadly, on October 24, 1992, our beloved Archbishop MICHAEL passed away and was laid to rest in front of the St. George Cathedral in Toledo. Family, friends and many high-ranking clergy and dignitaries from all over the world attended the funeral. Archbishop MICHAEL will long be remembered for his compassion, warmth, his humility and sense of humor, for his love of the young people of the Archdiocese but most of all for being instrumental in uniting the Syrian Orthodox Church of all North America. In Church is another beautiful plaque that was dedicated on April 25, 1993 bearing the following information: "Born April 27, 1924", "Deacon August 18, 1951", "Priest August 19, 1951", Archimandrite July 4, 1954", "Episcopate February 11, 1962". In addition, a special cabinet made of oak and glass is a permanent fixture in the southwest corner of the Vestibule of the Church, which is prominently visible upon entering the church. The ornate cabinet is well lit with a mirror in the background and contains His Vestments, Crown and Staff and in an adjoining section more of His vestments, photos of him as a priest, archpriest and bishop and a photo of him with the orphans from Saidnaya. Also, there are three engolpion icons that he wore, one of them given to him by the country of Russia and another from Greece. May His Memory Be Eternal.

Wanting to pass on their religious traditions, the founders started a school of religious education for their children with (Rev.) George Haddad Shaheen, Chanter, as their tutor. Special permission was obtained from the Board of Education in order to teach them Arabic, as it was against the law at that time to teach other than the English language. The first school was started in a hut at the rear of 418 Rex Ave. S.E., the second generation of Cantonians, ages 6 to 14 years were taught doctrines, history and traditions of our Church and learned the entire liturgy in the Arabic tongue. The teacher's "gatheeb" (whip) kept the students in line. It was not uncommon to hear an American-born youth chanting the epistle in Arabic. Teaching in the "Syrian School" was later carried on in turn by John H. Shaheen, Louis Haddad, Nicholas A. Shaheen, Mrs. James (Hilaneh) Shaheen and Assaf Assali.

There were many times when we did not have a priest, however religious education was never neglected. On November 7, 1938, the St. George Sunday School was established with Nicholas N. Shaheen as Superintendent. Jennie Albert, Victoria Massouh, Al Albert, Mary Albert, Teresa Esber, William Kannam, Carol Shaheen, Dawn Shaheen, Carol Sue Leasure, Linda Cervo, Deacon Basil Shaheen, Marilyn Shaheen, Ann Durkin, Christina Wackenheim, Charlene Georges and Michelle Wires succeeded him. The children and their teachers meet on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy.

On March 11, 1951, Dr. Salem Shaheen Jr., organized the Choir and was its first Director. A few years later, after his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Loyd F. Shaheen became the Choir Director. Our organist has always been Rosemary Shaheen and she has been blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH for all her years of service with the Certificate of Meritorious Service in 2020 as will be presented the certificate at the 100th Anniversary. Dr. Loyd Shaheen served faithfully as choir director, as did James F. Shaheen, Jr., who fell asleep on January 21, 2021, Memory Eternal! Others assisting over the years were Paul Shaheen, Nick Shaheen and Dr. K.J. Shaheen. Misti Tidman is our current director.

We have been fortunate to hear the beautiful voices of many chanters and readers through our history including the longtime chanter Deeb Turk. Currently serving as chanter and readers are faithful servants Iyad Bechara, Kh. Mira and children: Elia, Antony and Lucia. Misti Tidman, Jazla Hilaneh and Monica Griffin. The teens and children are beginning to get more involved as well.

Forerunner of the Canton Youth Organizations was the "Frontiers", which was organized on December 7, 1941 with Alex Esber as president. After that meeting the news of Pearl Harbor was heard, and needless to say, the club was short lived. On April 10, 1949, SOYO was started with Kelly Esber as president. In the early 50's, weekly Sunday Night socials began to raise money for the purchase of a Baldwin organ, a Gaestetner Mimeograph machine, choir robes and other necessities. The Canton Chapter was part of the Midwest Region and was one of the most active in the Region with as many as 100 members. In 1955, the Teen SOYO known as Tau Phi was organized with Corinne (Esber) Mahshie as president. In 1959 the project of the Teen Sunday School class was a pictorial yearbook. "The Orthodoxian". On May 12, 1967, the group reorganized as the Orthodox Youth of America (OYA) under the Toledo Archdiocese.

During the early SOYO years, the first Church Publication, self supporting "SOYO Reading" began in 1952 with Helen and Margaret Shaheen as co-editors. Others included "The St. George Courier", the Newsletter", under Rev. Fr. Elias Saba, bi-weekly "Bulletin" under Very Rev. Fr. Theodore Ziton, monthly "The Grace" under Rev. Fr. John Nicholas Ozone, "The St. George Witness" under the Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Cervo and the "The Vine" under Very Rev. Fr. Michael Corbin. The office also publishes a weekly bulletin with relevant information regarding that Sunday's liturgy.

The first secretaries were George H. Shaheen, Nicholas N. Shaheen, and George Massouh, followed by a succession of secretaries. In 1981, it became necessary to engage a permanent secretary, and Sally Michael was hired. The present secretary is Sharon Albaugh, assisted by Stevie Abraham and Claudia Shaheen.

During the 1950's and 1960's, members of SOYO became extremely active both at the Midwest and National Levels. George David was president of the Midwest Region and NAC and was appointed to serve in the Archdiocese Board of Trustees by His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop ANTONY Bashir. Serving the Midwest Region as officers were Kelly Esber, president, Bruce Abraham, treasurer and Sally Michael, corresponding secretary.

Many of our teenagers participated at the Parish Life Conferences (formerly called conventions) representing our local chapter at the Midwest Oratorical and Catechism Bowl Contests. Awards were also won in the Creative Arts, Creative Writing and Poetry Contests. In the years 1998 and 1999 the Canton Teen SOYO Chapter was awarded "Chapter of the Year" under the presidency of James C. Shaheen. They also won the Midwest Chapter of the year award in 2010 and the Humanitarian award in 2010 and 2011. Teen SOYO continues the traditions of those who preceded them. They do service projects for our community and the broader Orthodox charities. They host a Midwest Region basketball tournament every winter that has a huge following.

On July 27, 1969 president Carl Shaheen and architect Salem K. Shaheen presented plans for a proposed social hall to the parish. Ground Breaking ceremonies were combined with the annual St. George Day Celebration on April 19, 1970 at which time Metropolitan Archbishop MICHAEL was honored guest. The two floor social hall is air conditioned, has a seating capacity of 347, has a main hall for athletics, and contains kitchen facilities, offices and classrooms. On December 6, 1970, its completion was celebrated with dedication ceremonies and a banquet. In the 1990's, a new state of the art kitchen and new offices for the priest and secretary were added to the social hall. The offices are now fully equipped, complete with computers, printer and copy machines and other equipment. During the 2001-2002 years, under Chairperson Sally Michael more renovations were done on the hall and it was renamed "St. George Social Center". There was also work done on the exterior of the church. It's hard to be an old building without having a few nips and tucks here and there!

In 2006, the interior of the church was the focus of renovations. Just like home projects, this was supposed to take a few weeks, but ended up taking a few months! The carpet was replaced, and the sanctuary floor was tiled. The walls were painted as well as the Iconostasis. There are icons of the major feasts lining the walls. The chandeliers are clean and sparkly thanks to Dr. Loyd Shaheen. It looks beautiful, thanks to the work of many, but particularly Greg Rajsich and Rick Huggett.

St. George has also witnessed the success of our monthly Middle Eastern lunches and dinners. The second Friday each month was a staple for many years where you would find many of our parishioners working and attending the dinner at our Social Center. A dedicated work crew makes and serves our well-known dishes. Always on the menu are kibbee, meat pies, cheese pies, shish kabobs, tabbouleh, hummous, rice, green beans with beef tips and a variety of desserts. There are monthly specials as well. Currently, it has evolved to take-out only and on the second Thursday of each month, except during fasting periods. Our delicious food has quite a reputation and has been well supported by the community over the years.

August is also the month that the annual St. George picnic is held. Mike Shaheen Jr. organizes the logistics and pulls off a great event every year. Mike has a crew of about sixty people who help. And of course, we serve great food at the picnic. Another long held tradition is a pre-election day dinner and reverse raffle every November, chaired by Mike Kanam for some time. In attendance are local politicians mixed in with friends and families of our parish. It sells out every year.

A major event occurred in 2003 for all of us. Our sister parish, Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church closed its doors in September 2003, and merged with St. George. It was very emotional for the hardworking, dedicated members of Holy Cross to see their beloved church serve its final liturgy under their priest, the Rev. Fr. David Betros. Ultimately, we are happy to be reunited, and to worship as one cohesive group.

In reviewing the anniversary celebrations of the past 100 years: we celebrated our Silver Jubilee on October 4, 1947, with Salem Shaheen as our president. Honored guest was His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop ANTONY Bashir. On October 29, 1972, we celebrated our Golden Anniversary with James N. Shaheen as president. Honored guest was His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen. On May 16, 1982, a grand celebration was held in honor of Archbishop MICHAEL's 20th Anniversary as Archbishop, his 30th year in the priesthood and the Church's 60th Anniversary with Norman Shaheen as president. On May 15, 1983, after the completion of our remodeling program for the church, a Consecration Celebration was held with Nicholas H. Shaheen, Jr. as president. Honored guests were Metropolitan Archbishop PHILIP and Auxiliary Archbishop MICHAEL. On November 9, 1997, we celebrated our 75th Anniversary with Dr. Kaleel J. Shaheen as our president. Honored guest was His Grace, Bishop DEMETRI. On May 26, 2002, we celebrated our 80th Anniversary with Greg Shaheen as our parish council chairman. Honored guest was His Grace, Bishop DEMETRI. We celebrated our 85th Anniversary in October, 2007 with George Naseeb Shaheen as parish council chairman. Honored guest was His Grace, Bishop MARK. On May, 19, 2012, we celebrated our 90th Anniversary with Tim Wires as President. Honored guest was His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY. We celebrated the 95th Anniversary on April 22, 2019 with Andria Michael as President. Honored guests were His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop ANTHONY. We now have been blessed to come to our 100th Anniversary on May 7, 2022 with Greg Shaheen as President. Honored guests are His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop ANTHONY.

Along with these many memories, we have also shared graduations, weddings, baptisms, hafis, parties, illness and funerals. Hopefully, we continue to grow closer to God and pray that HE smiles down on us and blesses us always.

The first two volumes of minutes of the church 1918-1923 were written in Arabic. They are presently in the custody of the church office along with the remaining volumes of minutes. All the facts, names, dates, etc. were taken from the original minutes, which were translated by Rafik AbouZakhim, our faithful usher and greeter and George David who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago. Many weeks were spent on obtaining the information concerning the history of Canton's St. George. The translations were done to the best of our abilities and written as our interpretations. Historical notes were taken from the previous commemorative books written by Helen Shaheen, Milia Durkin and Pam Huggett. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the writing of the history.

As of late, an elevator and lobby addition project was passed by the parishioners and completed to be dedicated at the 100th Anniversary Celebration. This project was proposed by David Tomey and the Holy Cross Trustees who pledged to fund it with the proceeds of the sale of the Holy Cross Church. Thank you to all the Holy Cross parishioners for making this possible. The lift/elevator finally makes our century old church handicapped accessible to the church and basement for the first time. We also thank the city of Canton for providing our frontage on Cherry with a 'streetscape' including street lamps, sidewalks and planter boxes, it is much appreciated.

We have also witnessed a special blessing by welcoming new families to Orthodoxy this past year and we pray that we can be that beacon of the truth of Christ in our community.

What does the future hold? Let us always put our trust in Christ, for With Christ, All Things Are Possible!



YEAR	PRESIDENTS MEN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	PRESIDENTS LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	PARISH PRIESTS
1918	Abraham Kaleel (3 years)	Zekia Shaheen (3 Years)	Rev Spiridon Massouh (visiting)
1921	Said Shaheen	Saleemy Shaheen	Rev Spiridon Massouh (visiting)
1922	Salem Shaheen (Church)	Saleemy Shaheen	Rev Spiridon Massouh (visiting)
1923	Fares Moosa Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev Massouh/Rev George Nackett
1924	Nicholas N Shaheen	Hannah Betros/Zekia Shaheen	Rev Ibrahim Zaine
1925	Salem Shaheen	Rose George	Rev Zaine/Rev George H Shaheen
1926	Fares Moosa Shaheen	Rose George	Rev Shaheen
1927	Salem Shaheen	Hannah Betros	Rev Shaheen
1928	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev Shaheen
1929	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev Shaheen-Expired 10-29-29 Rev Massouh
1930	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev Peter Azaar/Rev George Trad/Rev Massouh
1931	Farris Esber	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1932	Farris Esber	Julia David Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1933	Sliman Esber	Julia David Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1934	Salem Michael Shaheen	Julia SM Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1935	Salem Shaheen	Julia SM Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1936	Nicholas H Shaheen	Jamele B Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1937	Davis Georges	Julia David Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1938	Davis Georges	Julia David Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1939	Nicholas Michael Shaheen	Julia David Shaheen	Rev Massouh
1940	Davis Georges/NH Shaheen	Shaheenie Ferris	Rev Massouh-Expired 1-25-40 Rev John Koury-Began 3-9-40
1941	Massad Georges	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev John Koury-Frontiers (12-7-41)
1942	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev John Koury/Alex Esber, President
1943	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev John Koury-(forerunner of S.O.Y.O)
1944	Salem Shaheen	Mary Salem Shaheen	Rev John Koury
1945	Nicholas N Shaheen	Marena Kousaie	Rev John Koury
1946	Salem Shaheen	Marena Kousaie	Rev John Koury

YEAR	BOARD OF TRUSTEES	LADIES' SOCIETY	PARISH PRIESTS	YOUTH SOCIETIES
1947	Salem Shaheen	Eva Shaheen	Rev Anthony Sakey (3-1-47)	
1948	William S Georges	Mary Ferris	Rev Anthony Sakey	SOYO (4-10-49)
1949	William S Georges	Mary Ferris	Rev Anthony Sakey	Kelly Esber
1950	Nicholas H Shaheen	Mary Ferris	Rev Anthony Sakey	Carl N Shaheen
1951	Nicholas H Shaheen	Mary Ferris	Rev Gabriel Barrow (June)	Carl N Shaheen
1952	William S Georges	Mary Ferris	Rev Gabriel Barrow Rev Victor George (Dec)	Geo Nicholas Shaheen
1953	Dr Gus Salem Shaheen	Anne FE Shaheen	Rev Victor George Rev Michael G Shaheen (May)	Geo Nicholas Shaheen
1954	Kelly Esber	Anne FE Shaheen	Rev Michael G Shaheen	George David
1955	Carl N Shaheen	Rachel Blair	Rev Michael G Shaheen	Jas N Shaheen (1955-1957) Tau Phi Corinne Esber
1956	Dr Gus Salem Shaheen	Rachel Blair	Rev Michael G Shaheen Rt Rev Gabriel Samne (March) Rev Theodore Ziton (1 week)	Michael Massouh
1957	Dr Gus Salem Shaheen	Mildred Elfaye	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	Bruce Abraham (1957-1959) Lynn Georges
1958	Nicholas H Shaheen	Mary Ferris	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	Carol Sue Georges & Lynn Georges
1959	Nicholas H Shaheen	Amelia Michael	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	Delores Shaheen (1959-1961) Katherine Jean Shaheen
1960	Nicholas H Shaheen	Amelia Michael	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	Deanna Michael
1961	Dr Salem Shaheen Jr	Mary Ferris	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	James Kannam (1961-1962) Geo Naseeb Shaheen
1962	Dr Salem Shaheen Jr	(Club Inactive)	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne (ill 3 mos)	James N Shaheen (1962-1963) Fred Shaheen
			Rev George Nasser	
			Rev Walter Diachenko	
			Rev George Simon	
			Rev George G Shaheen	

1963	Carl N Shaheen	(Club Inactive)	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne	Frederick S Shaheen 1963-1964	Milia Asper
1964	Carl N Shaheen	(Club Inactive)	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne		Said (Cy) Shaheen
1965	Carl N Shaheen	(Club inactive)	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne		Carol Bendekgey
1966	Carl N Shaheen	(Club inactive)	Rt Rev Gabriel Samne (Feb '67)		Carol Shaheen
1967	Carl N Shaheen	Ladies of St George (5-20-67) Amelia Michael	Metropolitan Michael Rev John Eassa (3-12-67/5 wks) Rev Nicodemus Joseph (5-21-67)		OYA Started 5-12-67) Carol Shaheen
1968	Carl N Shaheen	Rose Esber	Rev Nicodemus Joseph (to 6-30-68) Vicar Gen Raphael Husson		Charles E Shaheen
			Rev Nicholas Hershaoul (Sep & Nov)		
			Rev John Sireci (Oct 6)		
			Rev Anthony Malick (Dec 15)		
1969	Carl N Shaheen	Rose Esber	Rev Geo Daoud (4 weeks) Rev Joseph Rahal (3-3-69)		Neffagie Shaheen
1970	Carl N Shaheen	Sally Michael	Rev Joseph Rahal (to 4-29-70) Rev Stephen Graham (5-10-70)		Michelle Esber/Joe Joseph
1971	Nicholas B Shaheen	Sally Michael	Rev Stephen Graham Rev Elias Saba (June)		Geprgeann Shaheen
1972	James N Shaheen	Marguerite Turk	Rev Elias Saba		Alexander Shaheen
1973	Bruce Abraham	Marguerite Turk	Rev Elias Saba		Alexander Shaheen
1974	Bruce Abraham	Jennie Kannam & Lottie Nasseff	Rev Elias Saba & Rev David Wine		Gregory Shaheen
1975	Charles E Shaheen	Faye Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton (Aug)		Gregory Shaheen
1976	Charles E Shaheen	Faye Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Duke Kanam
1977	Charles E Shaheen	Betty May Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Cathy Shaheen
1978	Norman Shaheen	Betty May Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Shafeek Shaheen Jr
1979	Norman Shaheen	Carol Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Rhonia David
1980	Norman Shaheen	Faye Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Tom Shaheen
1981	Norman Shaheen	Faye Shaheen	Rev Theodore Ziton		Nicholas Michael
1982	Norman Shaheen	Mary Michael	Rev Theodore Ziton		Nicholas Michael
1983	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Mary Michael	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		George Kousiry
1984	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Noor AbouZakhim	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		JB Abraham
1985	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Noor AbouZakhim	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Amy Durkin
1986	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Noor AbouZakhim	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		JB Abraham
1987	George N Shaheen	Carol Shaheen	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Amy Durkin
1988	George N Shaheen	Carol Shaheen	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Bill Shaheen
1989	George N Shaheen	Lila Zakhim	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		George Faiz Shaheen
1990	George N Shaheen	Lila Zakhim	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Ronda Michael
1991	George N Shaheen	Jeanette Martin	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Mary AbouZakhim
1992	George N Shaheen	Jeanette Martin	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Laurice Michael
1993	George N Shaheen	Jeanette Martin	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Michelle Shaheen
1994	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Sadie Shaheen	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Ann Durkin
1995	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Sadie Shaheen	Very Rev Theodore Ziton		Robin Shaheen
1996	Nicholas H Shaheen Jr	Sadie Shaheen	Very Rev Theodore Ziton, Emeritus		Sonia Abuzakhim
1997	Kaleel J Shaheen	Milia Durkin	Fr John Nicholas Ozone (8-96)		Jimmy Shaheen
1998	Kaleel J Shaheen	Milia Durkin	Fr John Nicholas Ozone		Jimmy Shaheen
1999	George N Shaheen	Milia Durkin	Fr John Nicholas Ozone		Mary Ataya
2000	George N Shaheen	Sadie Gazil	Very Rev Fr Joseph Cervo (8-1-2001)		Michael Shaheen
2001	Gregory Shaheen	Sadie Gazil	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Amanda Tomey/Michael Ataya
2002	Gregory Shaheen	Amy Durkin Gabriel	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Michael Ataya
2003	Paul N Shaheen	Pam Huggett	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Jonathan Kanam
2004	Andria Michael	Pam Huggett	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Kelly Shaheen II
2005	Andria Michael	Ann Durkin	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Daniel Eisenbrei
2006	George Naseeb Shaheen	Ann Durkin	Very Rev Joseph Cervo		Naseeb Shaheen
2007	George Naseeb Shaheen	Marilyn Kanam	V Rev Joseph Cervo/Fr Basil Shaheen		Anne Huggett
2008	James Kannam Jr	Marilyn Kanam	V Rev Joseph Cervo/Fr Basil Shaheen		Neda Shaheen
2009	James Kannam Jr	Rawna Shaheen	V Rev Joseph Cervo\ (disability retirement 7-12-2009 Fr Michael Corbin (7-19-09) Fr Basil Shaheen		Neda Shaheen/Laura Eisenbrei

2010	George Naseeb Shaheen	Rawna Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Laura Eisenbrei
2011	George Naseeb Shaheen	Laura Kibler	Fr Michel Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Laura Eisenbrei/Alex Michael
2012	Tim Wires	Leila Andrews	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Alex Michael/Julia Esber
2013	Tim Wires	Leila Andrews	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Julia Esber/Nejla Shaheen
2014	George Naseeb Shaheen	Leila Andrews	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Nejla Shaheen/Nader Shaheen and Max Bechara
2015	Andria Michael	Leila Andrews	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Nader Shaheen/Max Bechara/Diane Albaba
2016	Andria Michael	Claudia Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Diane Albaba/Musa Michael
2017	Andria Michael	Claudia Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Musa Michael/Mareena Michael
2018	George Naseeb Shaheen	Claudia Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Mareena Michael/Natalie Michael
2019	George Naseeb Shaheen	Claudia Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Natalie Michael/Joyce Alkaied
2020	Greg Shaheen	Marilyn Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Joyce Alkaied/Grace Wires
2021	Greg Shaheen	Marilyn Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Grace Wires / Jon Michael
2022	Greg Shaheen	Marilyn Shaheen	Fr Michael Corbin/Fr Basil Shaheen		Jon Michael





On Holy Saturday, April 23, 2022, the actual date of our 100th Anniversary, we were blessed to receive the Alleman, Rossett and Starkey families into the Holy Orthodox Church. Welcome Home!



Great and Holy Pascha (Agape Vespers) April 24, 2022

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!



**IN BLESSED MEMORY OF OUR FATHER IN CHRIST ON THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS FALLING ASLEEP,**

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP +MICHAEL (SHAHEEN)

**WHO GREW IN THE STATURE OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY
AS A
SON, PASTOR & ARCHPASTOR.**

**HIS UNDYING LEGACY IS THAT OF A SERVANT OF CHRIST
WHO MANIFESTED
LOVE, COMPASSION AND HUMILITY
IN ALL THAT HE DID.**

MAY HIS EXAMPLE INSPIRE US AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW.

**GRANT REST, O LORD, IN BLESSED FALLING ASLEEP,
TO THE SOUL OF YOUR DEPARTED SERVANT,**

ARCHBISHOP +MICHAEL

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

*For this Holy House and for those
who with faith, reverence and fear
of God enter therein, let us pray to
the Lord!*



Lord have mercy!

*Thank you all for being a part of this
most blessed and historic occasion!*