

April 2025

THE VINE

الكَرْمَة

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



1922-2025

انا هو الكرمة و انتم الاتحان

The Monthly Newsletter of

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



Great and Holy Pascha

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

I greet you all with the great joy of the Resurrection of our Lord who raises us up from death to life and from earth to heaven. The somberness of the Lenten season reflects our calling to leave sin and darkness behind and pursue that which is holy, pure and full of light.

Some of our worst nightmares occur whenever we dream that we are not prepared or dressed properly. The whole point of living the Christian life is to preserve, protect and maintain the ‘wedding garment’ so that we can worthily enter the bridal chamber of the Lord. This is reflected in the great Exaposteilarion hymns during Holy week: “I behold Thy bridal chamber richly adorned, O my Savior; but I have no wedding garment to worthily enter. Make radiant the garment of my soul, O Giver of Light, and save me.” He who covers Himself with light as with a garment (Psalm 104) calls upon us to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (Romans 13). Our baptismal garments are renewed and made radiant through the Sacrament of Holy Confession, after which we pray that ‘the grace of thy Holy Spirit strengthens us so that we may shun all evil deeds and works and words and thoughts, and that we may avoid all snares of the evil one.’ It is therefore a call to ask for forgiveness and live a life of repentance. A true struggle for the light of Christ.

Our spiritual struggle is one that not only tests the waters of life, but which immerses us into our unification with God, who is both light and a consuming fire. Abba Lot went to Abba Joseph and said to him, “Abba, as far as I can I say my little office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace and as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?” Then the old man stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he said to him, “If you will, you can become all flame.”— From “The Sayings of the Desert Fathers”

We come to receive this consuming fire as we partake of the precious and all holy body and blood of Christ. We then pray: ‘O thou who willingly dost give thy flesh to us as food, thou who art a fire consuming the unworthy: Consume us not, O our Creator, but rather pass through us for the right ordering of our members, into all our joints, our reins, our hearts. Burn thou the thorns of all our transgressions. Cleanse our souls, and hallow thou our thoughts.’ We become full of light for we have seen the True Light and received the Heavenly Spirit.

We therefore are always called to live in the Light of the Lord as we are children of the Light (Ephesians 5). The Paschal celebration is the great rejoicing to come and take light from the Light that is never overtaken by night, to come and glorify Christ who is Risen from the dead. He raises us up to His Eternal Light that shines forever and unending upon the Faithful in the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly Kingdom and the destination of our Pascha (Passover).

In the Risen Lord,
Fr. Michael

Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 9, 2025



**Veneration
of the Holy Cross
March 23**



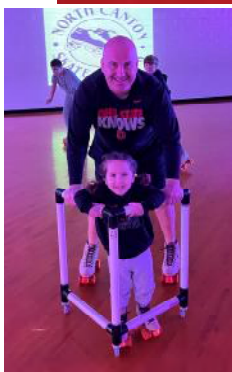
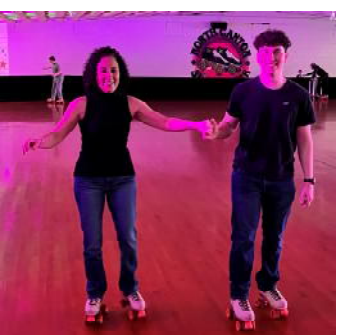
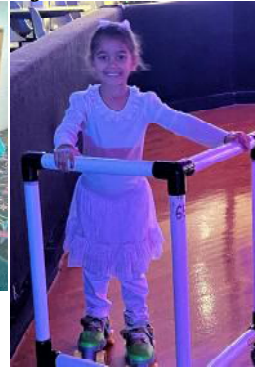
**Pan-Orthodox
Presanctified
Liturgy
March 26**

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors for the dinner after the Presanctified Liturgy.



Kids' Party! March 16, 2025

Thank you to the Phoenicians for inviting our Sunday school families to the Kids' Party!



On March 2, Forgiveness Sunday, the blessing of the new Catechumen, Jacob Murphy. Welcome Home!



ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

In the June issue of the Vine, we will be featuring 2025 graduates. Please send, give or email us your picture no LATER THAN MAY 27TH along with answers to the following questions:
Your Name, Parents Name
Graduated from High School,
School attending in the future, Field of Study, Graduated from College, Degree in. Thank you!

Memory Eternal!

Prayers and condolences to Shannon and Maiy Carneal and family on the recent passing of Shannon's father, Benjamin Carneal.



Ladies of St George are participating in the 5th Annual National Orthodox Baby Shower. This year we will be collecting diapers of all sizes (larger sizes are the greatest need) for the Crisis Pregnancy and Parenting Center in Canton. Diapers can be dropped off in the vestibule of the social hall throughout the Lenten period. Thank you in advance for your caring and support!

Many thanks to Father Corbin for the beautiful funeral service he performed with Father Halkias of Holy Trinity for our dear Mother, Mary Koussaie. Also, many thanks to our friends at St. George who supported us in our time of grief. God bless all of you. The Koussaie Family



A P R I L

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Donations needed for Holy Week: Palms, Oil & Flowers for the Crown- Donated Good Friday Flowers (these are free-will offerings so that everyone can donate) Saturday of Light - Laurel Leaves, Sunday Easter Egg Hunt - Candy & Chocolate</p>						
		1	2 Bible Study in the Library 11 am	3 Little Compline with the Life of St Mary of Egypt and Great Canon of St. Andrew 6:30 pm	4 Little Compline and Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos (Al-Maidh Al-Kabir) 6:30 pm	5
		Great Compline 6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm Holy Assumption			Great Vespers 5 pm
6	7	8	9 Bible Study in the Library 11 am	10	11	12
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT	Parish Council Meeting 5:30 pm		Bible Study in the Library 11 am	Catechism Class, 5:30 pm in the Church Lower Level		Lazarus Sat. Matins 9 am See Fr prepare Gifts 10am Liturgy 10:15 am followed by children decorating their Palm Sunday candles & breakfast. Vespers 5 pm
Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am Lenten Vespers 6:30 pm	Great Compline 6:30 pm	Great Compline 6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm	Great Compline 6:30 pm	Little Compline Canon of Lazarus 6:30 pm	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM SUNDAY	Holy Monday	Holy Tuesday	Holy Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Holy Friday	Holy Saturday
Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am SOYO Fish Luncheon Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy 10 am Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy 10 am Bridegroom Matins 6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy 10 am Holy Unction Service 6:30 pm	Matins 9am Vespers 10 am Liturgy 10 am 12 Passion Gospels 6:30 pm	Royal Hours 10 am Vespers 12 pm Lamentations 6:30 pm	Saturday of Light Vespers 10 am Rush Service 10 pm followed by Paschal Matins & Liturgy Paschal Feast
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!</i>	Bright Monday	Bright Tuesday	Bright Wednesday	Bright Thursday	Bright Friday	Bright Saturday
Great & Holy PASCHA Agape Vespers 12 pm followed by Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	Matins 9am Liturgy 10am	Paschal Vespers 6:30 pm	& Feast of St. George Paschal Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am	Paschal Vespers 6:30 pm	Paschal Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am	Great Vespers 5 pm
27	28	29	30	May 1 - Food Ministry, 9am		
THOMAS SUNDAY						
Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am			Bible Study in the Library 11 am	<p>Paschal Feast - Following the Resurrection Service, Saturday, April 19, 2025 If you would like to prepare, or donate any of the foods, contact Jazla Hilaneh or Marilyn Kanam Monetary donations are equally welcome. Thank you!</p>		

Ladies (AOCWNA) Lenten Corner

During this season of Great Lent, The Ladies of St. George (AOCWNA) offer you this spiritual and dietary resource to help guide you on your journey to Great Pascha.

Devotion of the Month

Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You. (Psalms 119:11)

Lenten Snack Ideas

Chocolate Chip Teddy Grahams, Lays classic potato chips
Thomas' NY style Bagels in blueberry, cinnamon swirl, everything and plain

RECIPE of the MONTH

Lebanese Roasted Cauliflower and Rice

Ingredients

4 cups cauliflower, cut into florets, 1 large onion, sliced, 3 Tbsp olive oil, ½ tsp salt, ½ tsp black pepper, ¼ tsp cinnamon, 2 Tbsp pine nuts, 1 ½ cups cooked rice

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Spray a rimmed baking sheet well with nonstick cooking spray. You can also grease it with a bit of olive oil.

Cut cauliflower into florets and slice onions, then add to a large mixing bowl. Pour the olive oil and spices over top and mix well. Then spoon cauliflower mixture onto the prepared baking sheet. Spoon the mixture into an even layer so it all cooks nicely.

Place in the oven and bake for 30-35 minutes until the vegetables have browned nicely and are cooked through. You don't want them to burn, but they have more flavor if the onions are caramelized. Baking times may vary.

While that is in the oven, make the rice according to the package instructions. You need 1 ½ cups of cooked rice. This is a a good recipe to use leftover rice.

While the rice is cooking, toast the pine nuts. Heat up a small skillet to medium heat. Spray with nonstick cooking spray and add the pine nuts. Saute until they turn golden brown, stirring every once in a while. Then spoon them out into an even layer on a paper towel. If you keep them in the pan, they will continue to cook from the heat of the pan even if the stove isn't on.

Once the cauliflower comes out of the oven, add the cooked rice to the mixture and mix around on the sheet pan so you can mix it with the vegetables, oil and spices on the pan. Once it's well combined, sprinkle pine nuts on top and serve. Or scoop everything into a large serving bowl and top with pine nuts. Store leftovers in an airtight container.

(Submitted by Liz Macris)

Thank you
to all the ladies who read
the Epistle for Ladies Month.





The Archbishop Michael Shaheen Educational and Charitable Fund is once again offering scholarships to 2025 high school graduates who are furthering their education through college, university or technical training. Since 1994, 87 scholarships have been distributed. These scholarships are awarded as a recognition of the student’s good standing with the Antiochian Orthodox Church and as an incentive to continue to grow. Scholarship applications may be obtained by contacting Stevie Abraham beginning March 1st. They are to be returned to Milia Durkin by June 30, 2025 for review. (Late/incomplete applications cannot be considered.) This scholarship honors both student accomplishment and also, the memory of the late Archbishop Michael.

SOYO Luminary Project-Good Friday Evening April 18th

Our luminary display will be Friday evening, April 18th, during the Good Friday Evening Service.

The luminaries will line the path of the procession with the Epitaphio, during the evening service.

*Individual luminaries can be designated in memory of or for the health of your loved ones, **for a donation of \$5.00 each.***

*Complete this form and return it with your donation to a Teen SOYO member no later than **April 15, 2025.***

Your Name: _____

Please print clearly the name you wish to appear on each luminary you are purchasing.

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

For the Health of: _____

For the Health of: _____

Total Quantity (\$ 5.00 Donation per luminary) _____ x \$ 5.00 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: St. George Teen SOYO

St. George Pascha Card

If you would like your name printed in the Pascha Card that is sent out, please fill out and send the form located below along with a \$10 donation to: St. George Church, 1118 Cherry Ave NE, Canton, 44704 or use the special offering envelope provided in your weekly contribution box and place in the Sunday collection tray. Deadline: April 9. Make checks payable to: St. George Church.

ST. GEORGE PASCHA CARD

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

The St. George Antiochian Orthodox
Church of Canton, Ohio
1118 Cherry Avenue NE

Save the date *St. George Day, Visitors Sunday &
High School Recognition - May 4*
Last Day of Sunday School - May 18
Retreat & Visit with Fr. Jeremy Davis - June 6-9
Midwest Parish Life Conference, June 18-21, Louisville Ky

Baseball Outing - July 11
Vacation Church School - July 14-18
*Archdiocese Convention (www.ac2025chicago.org)
July 21-26, Chicago IL*
Annual Church Picnic - August 17

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
Subscription to Word Magazine:
<https://forms.gle/ZcYq1HD1tPp7SXHT9>

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
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st.georgeantiochiancanton](https://www.facebook.com/st.georgeantiochiancanton)