THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD



From the Desk of the Pastor

During the dark of night, as the Church prays in her Office of Vigils - lilyo - she concludes this lengthy series of prayers and hymns with a set of psalms known as the teshboohto in Syriac or the *sajdi* in Arabic – literally, the "praises." This set psalms (148-150) is common part of Eastern Christian prayer. This set of psalms has at its core a central theme – the praise of God by all the things He has created: the sun, moon, stars, waters, earth, fire, hail rain, dew, mist, winds, mountains, hills, trees, beasts, tame animals, angels, saints, kings, rulers, old and young.



For centuries in parishes of the Maronite Church that might not have the ability to pray the lengthy midnight office before the Christmas liturgy, they preserved the practice of praying together these psalms before the liturgy. Like most Syriac hymnody, each verse is alternated between two groups. While one group is chanting a passage of the psalms, the other group is performing prostrations. This is a beautiful expression of Christian prayer - we simultaneously prostrate ourselves before God in our weakness, our sinfulness, and our humility and we stand boldly and with confidence before God to offer the praise and glory that is due to Him!

These beautiful psalms exemplify a Christian understanding of the Incarnation and Christmas: because our God out of love for His creation chose of His own will to become man, He has reconciled Himself to all that He has made. As a result of this salvation and outpouring of humility and love on the part of our Creator, we, His creation, cry out with praise and glory - along with all of creation. We, along with the heavens and earth, skies and seas, fruits and trees, animals and beasts, angels, and saints, wonder at the Child of Wonder Who has come to visit His creation!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

HE LAID LIKE A BABY, AND IN HIM WAS HIDDEN THE WEALTH OF WISDOM WHICH KNOWS ALL.



A Catholic Parish of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church

St. George Church is committed to sharing the fullness of the Gospel and living the richness of the Syriac Maronite Tradition through worship, charity, and striving for personal and communal holiness.

Most Reverend Gregory John Mansour Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn

Parish Clergy

Rev. Father Aaron J. Sandbothe

Pastor

ajsandbothe@gmail.com | 315.790.0059

Rev. Subdeacon Dr. Mallard T. George Rev. Subdeacon Dr. Charles D. Machesky Rev. Subdeacon Charles J.R. Michael

New to St. George?

Welcome! We are happy to have you worshipping with us! We hope that you will soon call our parish your spiritual home! Please contact the parish office for more information.

Parish Information

Parish Office

6 Lebanon Terrace | Uniontown, PA 15401

Phone | 724.437.5589

Fax | 724.437.3819

Email | info@stgeorgeuniontown.org

Ms. Abby Rozgony | Administrative AssistantOffice Hours | Tue-Fri | 1 pm - 4 pm

Mr. Dogge Briefser I Coston

Mr. Roger Bricker | Sexton

724.366.1858

Mr. Damien Zsiros | Organist

dzsiros@atlanticbb.net

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Instagram | @stgeorgeuniontown

Remind | http://rmd.me/b?rid=58399870

MYO Remind | myo202 to 81010

Flocknote | stgeorgeuniontown.flocknote.com

Parish Stewardship

Week of 15 Dec 2024

1st Collection	\$3051.00
Electronic Giving	\$156.00

2nd Collections \$45.00

2011CCC10113 \$ 19.00

Candles \$25.00 Ladies Guild (Party, Dues, Breakfast) \$1,589.00

Christmas Flowers \$345.00

MYO \$250.00

Memorials \$320.00

Received \$5,781.00

Budget \$3,500.00

Difference \$2,281.00

Stewardship | 2024 YTD

Received \$212,719.00

Budget \$175,000.00

Difference \$37,719.00

Online stewardship is the easiest and most secure way of contributing to the financial stability and health of our parish. Please consider making your weekly or monthly contributions online. Instructions can be found on the parish website. Thank you for your continued generous support for St. George Church.

Liturgical Schedule

Sat | 4:00 pm Sun | 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Tue | Vespers | 6:00 pm (var) Tu - Fri | 8:30 am

Feasts | 7:00 pm

This Week @ St. George

Sat | 21 Dec | 4:00pm

St. Julian, M + Loretta M. Joseph

by Joe T. Joseph

Sun | 22 Dec | 8:30am

St. Anastasia of the Balkans, M + Thomas J. George by Dr. Mike & Paula George

> Sun | 22 Dec | 10:30am + Philip Michael

by Mr. & Mrs. Randy. Richey

Tue | 24 Dec | 7:00pm Vigil of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord + Agnes & Peter Claim by Barb & Joe George

Wed | 25 Dec | 10:00am
The Glorious Birth of Our Lord
Parishioners of St. George

Thu | 26 Dec | 8:30am

Felicitations to the Mother of God + Stephen Tancin by Stephen & Susan Tancin

Fri | 27 Dec | 8:30am

St. Stephen the Protomartyr, M + Jerome S. Toth, Sr. by Family

Sat | 28 Dec | 8:30am

Adoration of the Magi St. Marina in Pisidia, M

+ Loretta M. Joseph & Family

by Joe T. Joseph

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Genealogy Sunday St. Anastasia of the Balkans, M	23 St. Eugenia, M	24 Vigil of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord	25 The Glorious Birth of Our Lord	26 Felicitations to the Mother of God	27 St. Stephen the Protomartyr, M	28 Adoration of the Magi St. Marina in Pisidia, M
Liturgy 8:30am + Thomas J. George Liturgy 10:30am + Philip Michael Confessions 5:30pm Novena 6:00pm	Confessions 5:30pm Novena 6:00pm	Christmas Evening Prayer 6:00pm Liturgy 7:00pm + Agnes & Peter Claim	Liturgy 10:00am Parishioners of St. George Holy Day of	Liturgy 8:30am + Stephen Tancin	Liturgy 8:30am + Jerome S. Toth Sr.	Liturgy 4:00pm + Loretta M. Joseph & Family
Rectory Open House 7:00pm 	Nativity Fast Heb 11:1-6 John 8:1-11	Nativity Fast Heb 11:7-10 John 8:12-20	Obligation Isaiah 8:23-9:5 Heb 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	Eph 1:3-14 Luke 1:46-55	2 Cor 11:1-9 Matt 23:29-24:2	Rev 21:9-27 Matt 2:1-12
29 Sunday after the Glorious Birth of Our Lord The Massacre of the	30 St. Anysia, V, M	31 St. Zoticus, M	O1 JAN 2025 The Circumcision of Our Lord Sts. Basil and Gregory, C	O2 Pope St. Silvester I, C	03 Malachi the Prophet	04 Pope St. Caius, M
Children of Bethlehem Liturgy 8:30am + Kherestine Risha Liturgy 10:30am + Departed Children of St. George		Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 7:00pm + Elizabeth "Libby" John	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 4:00pm + Loretta M. Joseph & Family + Christopher Sleighter
Church Isaiah 11:1-9 Heb 11:23-31 Matt 2:13-18	Acts 7:2-37 Matt 2:19-23	Jer 23:5-8 Col 1:9-20 John 1:1-19	Holy Day of Obligation Gen 21:1-5 Eph 2:11-22 Luke 2:21	Heb 7:1-10 Luke 2:22-24	Heb 7:20-28 Luke 2:25-35	Heb 6:9-12 Luke 2:36-40
O5 The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple St. Paul, the First Hermit, C	06 Feast of the Glorious Epiphany	07 Praises of St. John the Baptist, M	08 St. Carterius the Priest, M	09 St. Eustratius the Wonderworker, C	10 St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, C]] St. Theodosius of Antioch, C
Liturgy 8:30am + Philip Michael MCF 9:20am Liturgy 10:30am + Fred "Hawk" David	Liturgy 7:00pm Blessing of Water Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available Vespers 6:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 4:00pm + Ann Gabriel
1 Kings 3:5-14 Heb 7:11-19 Luke 2:41-52	Holy Day of Obligation Ezek 36:22-29 Tit 2:11-3:7 Luke 3:15-22	Col 1:24-29 Luke 7:18-30	Col 2:1-7 Matt 3:13-17	Gal 5:2-15 John 5:31-38	Gal 5:16-26 John 5:39-47	Gal 6:1-10 Matt 3:7-12
72 First Sunday after Epiphany St. Tatiana of Rome, M	13 St. Jacob of Nisibis, C	14 St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, C	15 Our Lady of the Sowing St. John Calybites, C	16 Memorial of the Chains of St. Peter Ap	17 St. Anthony the Great, C	18 Establishment of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome St. Athanasius of
Liturgy 8:30am + Tom "Duke" George MCF 9:20am Rosary 10:00am		Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am Intention Available	Liturgy 8:30am + Fred "Hawk" David	Alexandria, C St. Cyril of Alexandria, C Liturgy 4:00pm + Philip Michael
Liturgy 10:30am + Adam Morris & Kay Burkholder						·
Isaiah 40:6-11 2 Cor 10:1-11 John 1:29-34	2 Cor 10:12-19 Mark 1:1-8	2 Cor 11:1-6 John 1:19-28	Col 1:9-17 Luke 11:27-32	2 Cor 1:3-7 Matt 16:24-28	Eph 6:10-18 Mark 10:28-31	2 Cor 12:11-16 John 10:40-42

Parish Events, Happenings, & Announcements

Welcome!

We wish a warm welcome to all our visitors and to Join us for the Christmas Novena on Sunday, 22 those who already call St. George home. We are happy to have you worshipping with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to the parish clergy. We hope you will soon make St. George your spiritual home!

Bible Studv

Vespers at 6:00pm followed by Bible Study at 6:30pm. Our new Bible Study Program will continue on **Tuesday, 17 Dec** and will cover the Bible Timeline, The Story of Salvation.

The second collection on the feast of Christmas is traditionally taken for the Pastor. Thank you for your generosity and love shown to me over the past year! It is a true joy to be your pastor!

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas! On behalf of Subdeacons Mallard, Chuck, Chuck, and myself I would like to wish your families a holy and blessed Christmas! May the Birth of Our Lord bring peace and grace upon your homes!

Save the Date! We will be having a Hafli on Saturday, 1 February 2025. For ticket and contact information please see the flyers below in the bulletin! Tickets can be purchased online at www.stgeorgemaronitechurch.square.site

Hafli Sponsorships

Events like Haflis and Galas are only successful through the gracious support of sponsors who help defray the costs of food and entertainment. If you are able to sponsor this year's Hafli please contact Neely using the information in the flyer below. Also, please let the parish office know if you would like a sponsor letter/form to bring to any businesses or people you might know! The deadline for sponsorships is 17 January 2025. Thank you!

We are accepting raffle donations for the Chinese Auction at the Hafli. If tou are able to contribute please contact Neely or Kelly! Thank you!

Rectory Christmas Open House

December at 6:00pm followed by an Open House Christmas Party in the Parish Rectory at 7:00pm! All are welcome! Bring something sweet, savory, or a drink to share as we enjoy some festive cheer befroe the Feast of the Birth of Our Lord!

Christmas Liturgies

Our Bible Study Program meets twice monthly for Please note our Christmas Liturgical Schedule this year:

> Tue | 24 Dec | Christmas Eve 6:00pm | Evening Prayer of Christmas 7:00pm | Candlelight Vigil Liturgy of Christmas

Wed | 25 Dec | Christmas Day 10:00am | Liturgy of Christmas Day

NB: There is only one Liturgy on Christmas Day.

Feast of the Circumcision

We will celebrate the Feast of the Circumcision on Wednesday, 1 January at 7:00pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Feast of the Glorious Epiphan

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Monday, 6 January at 7:00pm. During the Liturgy we will bless Epiphany Water. Please bring your empty bottles with you so you can take the blessed water home with you. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

phiphany Home Blessings

If you would like a Home Blessing during the Epiphany Season, please let me know and I would be happy to bless your homes and businesses! **Epiphany Blessings will be available 6** January - 2 February.

2025 Liturgy Intentions

Ilf you would like to schedule any Liturgy Intentions for 2025 there are still a few weekends open. There are many daily liturgies with no intentions yet, including many **feast days**. Please consider scheduling recurring daily and festal intentions for both the living and deceased or any other personal intentions.

PRAYER LIST

Michelle Sante | Lynda Handlin | Teresa Rogers | Aliya Davis | Kimberly Steinmiller | Patty Benson | Leonard W. Neill II | Davey Rusko | Jim Delgreco | for a living or deceased loved one or **any other** Joan Mickey | Josette Shady Abi-Nader | Brooklynn Dennis | Gina Michael | Cookie Shady Benson | Tammy McKenzie | Kamberly George | Lorraine Guynn | Eileen Crutchman | Barb Howard Misiak | Helen Adams | Tanya Loring Kizner | John Mansberry | Donald George | Larry Hicks | Subdeacon Mallard George | Joe Joseph | Gerry Dawson | Jodi Zelina Paul | Paula Toth Michelle Loring | Ethel Frangipani | Annie Joseph Luke Bota | Elias (Eli) George | Betse Strickler

MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Light

James & Ann Mullen by Family

Altar Candles

Jerome S. Toth Sr. & Jerome S. Toth Jr. by Family

Altar Bread & Wine

Ellwood, Freda, & Michael Kelly by Sherry, Ellwood, Mary, & Families

Liturgy Intentions

Liturgy Intention scheduling can be made by contacting the Parish Office or in the binder in the narthex. If you would like to schedule a liturgy intention, please contact the parish office, send a note via mail or collection basket, or email. If you have already scheduled a specific or recurring monthly or yearly liturgy, please remember to send in your stipend before the liturgy is celebrated.

Stewardship

The Eparchy has raised our monthly parochial assessment and our annual Lenten Bishop's Appeal. Please prayerfully consider how you can help our parish to continue meeting our obligations to the Bishop and the Eparchy. Scripture tells us that ten percent of everything we have should be used for the glory of God and the benefit of others, and we suggest that 5% of your tithe be given to the parish in your offertory donations, 1% be given to the Eparchy in the Lenten Appeal, and the remaining 4% be given to charities of your choice including our capital campaigns and building fund.

We are in need of volunteers for collection counters and Old Testament Lectors, and substitutes as well. Willing and interested parties are asked to contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL & PASTORAL CARE

Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation

Sacramental Preparation is required before a baptism can be scheduled. We encourage this to happen before the birth of a child.

Mystery of Crowning

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Marriage Preparation is required as part of the process.

Pastoral Care for the Sick

If a loved one is hospitalized, ill, or homebound, please call or email the Parish Office.

For emergencies, please call Father Aaron directly at 315.790.0059.

Religious Education

Faith Formation for both Children and Adults will be available during the academic year.

Confessions

Confessions are held on Saturday from 3:30-3:55pm or by appointment.

AREA EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin Ad8



PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUR
PARISH DEFRAY THE COSTS OF
PRINTING THE WEEKLY BULLETIN BY
ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS OR
ORGANIZATION. AD SPACE IS
AVAILABLE FOR \$250.00 PER YEAR.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR BUSINESS
TO BE REPRESENTED IN OUR
BULLETIN AND EBULLETIN PLEASE
CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

Maronite Youth Organization

All youth in **Grades 6-12** are encouraged to sign up for MYO. Please call or text Subdeacon Chuck Michael at 724.323.4653. Also, please sign up on Remind to keep up to date with any MYO events and announcements by texting @myo202 to 81010. To be eligible for any Parish Scholarships, or to be recommended for any NAM or Eparchial awards, a child must be a regular communicant at Sunday and Festal liturgies and an active participant in the MYO/Faith Formation program.

Order of St. Sharbe

The Order of St. Sharbel is vitally important in providing **spiritual and financial support** for our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church. This year we have **three men preparing for the priesthood** for our Eparchy. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order.

Faith Formation

All school age children are expected to be enrolled and regularly attending Faith Formation, participating in the MYO, serving the Liturgy (for boys), or in other roles during and outside the liturgy (for girls).

The Bible Timeline

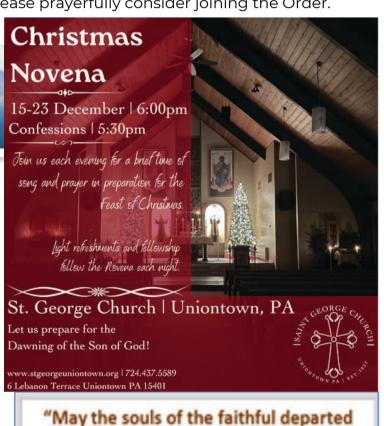
The Story of Salvation



St. George Church Bible Study Schedule

Date	Session (Video Times) Introduction			
3 Sept 2024				
17 Sept 2024	1. Finding the Story in Scripture			
1 Oct 2024	2. Early World – Part 1 Genesis 1–11			
15 Oct 2024	3. Early World – Part 2 Genesis 1–11			
12 Nov 2024	4. Patriarchs – Part 1 Genesis 12–50			
19 Nov 2024	5. Patriarchs – Part 2 Genesis 12–50			
3 Dec 2024	6. Egypt and Exodus – Part 1 Exodus			
17 Dec 2024	7. Egypt and Exodus – Part 2 Exodus			
7 Jan 2025	8. Desert Wanderings – Numbers			
21 Jan 2025	9. Conquest and Judges – Part 1 Joshua; Judges			
4 Feb 2025	10. Conquest and Judges – Part 2 Joshua; Judges			
18 Feb 2025	11. Royal Kingdom – Part 1 1 Samuel; 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1–11			
4 Mar 2025	12. Royal Kingdom – Part 2 1 Samuel; 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1–11			
18 Mar 2025	13. Divided Kingdom – Part 1 1 Kings 12–22; 2 Kings 1–17			
1 Ap 2025	14. Divided Kingdom – Part 2 1 Kings 12–22; 2 Kings 1–16			
8 Apr 2025	15. Exile – 2 Kings 17–25			
6 May 2025	16. Return – Ezra; Nehemiah			
20 May 2025	17. Maccabean Revolt – 1 Maccabees			
3 Jun 2025	18. Messianic Fulfillment – Part 1 Luke			
17 Jun 2025	19. Messianic Fulfillment – Part 2 Luke			
1 Jul 2025	20. Messianic Fulfillment – Part 3 Luke			
15 Jul 2025	21. The Church – Part 1 Acts			
5 Aug 2025	22. The Church – Part 2 Acts			
19 Aug 2025	23. The Church – Part 3 Acts			

www.stgeorgeuniontown.org



rest in the peace of The Lord."

In memory of the deceased members of the Lebanese Club.



By Mr. Arthur Gabriel من الميد أسعد رُغيب

MARONITE HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATES



SPONSORHIP / MEMORIAL OPPORTUNTIES

- Platinum \$1,000

Reserved table for 8 guests, premium placement on banners, signs, digital/social media and printed in program



Gold \$750

- 4 tickets, placement on banners, signs, digital/social media and printed in program

Silver \$500

- 2 tickets, placement on banners, signs, digital/social media and printed in program

Bronze \$250

Placement on banners, signs, digital/social media and printed in program

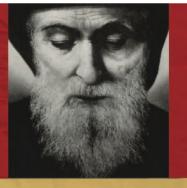
All memorial donations will be printed in the evening's program.

Reach out to Neeley 724-322-6406 or Kelly 412-691-4873

to become a sponsor or make a memorial donation.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2025

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL



Support Maronite Seminarians and retired priests and help build the future of the Maronite Church







Enroll online at orderstsharbel.org or in your Parish

For more information, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel President, Charlene Hiffa at info@orderstsharbel.org or call 718-237-9913 or consult your Parish Priest. If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Father Dominique Hanna, Vocations Director at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net

you are condially invited to the St. George Maronite February 1, 2025 St. george Parish Hall 6 p.m. - Mezze hour dioenwies 1 p.m. - Dinner Bancing to follow

\$80/ea. or \$150 per couple



Traditional Food and Music



🚵 Sponsorships Available

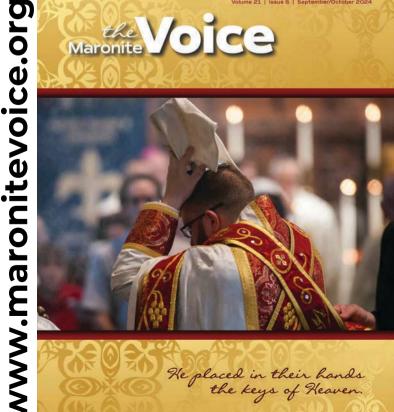


Reach out to Neeley 724-322-6406 or Kelly 412-691-4873

to secure your seat, table or become a sponsor.

Raffle donations are also being accepted.

me 21 | Issue 5 | September/October 2024 the VOICE



He placed in their hands the keys of Heaven.



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